

سكنا من اجل



Thatcher alone at EC summit

STRASBOURG (R) — European Community (EC) leaders, brushing aside Margaret Thatcher's lone opposition, agreed Friday to call a conference next year to pave the way for a single EC currency. The British prime minister was also alone on the first day of the summit when the other 11 adopted a social charter designed to protect the rights of workers in the EC's most heavily free single market after 1992. With turmoil in Eastern Europe casting a long shadow over the Strasbourg meeting, a row erupted in the background over Bonn's demands for a statement reaffirming the right of West and East Germany to decide on reunification. But Chancellor Helmut Kohl joined forces with French President Francois Mitterrand on the crucial summit issue of monetary union and the meeting agreed that a conference to revise the EC's founding treaties would start by mid-1994. "The crucial decisions were taken today," Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey told reporters. British officials shrugged off Thatcher's isolation, saying the others had opted for symbolism over substance. "Many of the speakers felt the need for symbolism, a need to demonstrate that the community was moving forward," a British official told reporters.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية «الراي»

Nabulsi expects bright 90

AMMAN (J.T.) — Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Said Nabulsi said Friday night that in 1990 there will be a surplus in the balance of payments, thus strengthening the exchange rate stability for the Jordanian dinar. "Following the rescheduling of debts, the situation improved drastically during the past few months and we, consequently, reduced the burden of servicing debts. We look forward to a very reasonable balance in 1990 and 1991. We feel that our reserves are safe in the coming two years. This will certainly be a shield that ensures continued monetary stability which we had begun," Nabulsi said in an interview carried by Jordan Television. He stressed the need for self-reliance to tackle our economic difficulties highlighting the distinguished efforts of His Majesty King Hussein and the efforts of the Jordanian government which resigned last week as well as the CBJ's efforts which all contributed to increasing the Kingdom's foreign exchange reserves last month to \$500 million. On the CBJ gold reserves, Nabulsi said that Jordan has freed 50,000 ounces out of about 145,000 which were previously hypothecated in return for \$600 million loan. Touching on the issue of moneychangers, Nabulsi said that money-changing should be restored under a new system and that legislation in this regard had been presented to the government.

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Million under siege on uprising anniversary

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army continued more than a million Arabs to their homes and detention camps in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip Tuesday as Palestinians marked the second anniversary of their uprising. With the widespread curfews, the army, and rain, streets were empty in many towns and refugee camps. In the West Bank and Gaza Strip in May were deserted except for military forces.

No major violence was reported, but the army said early morning protests prompted at least some of the curfews, on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. French and at least five towns and villages that are home to more than 140,000 people.

In Gaza, two Palestinians were shot when they left their homes in violation of curfew orders, reporters said.

Underground Palestinian leaders have called for a general strike throughout the occupied lands Saturday to usher in the third year of the intifada.

The army sent thousands of extra soldiers to patrol the West Bank and Gaza Strip with orders to maintain strict control of the streets and prevent Arab citizens from entering Israel.

Okla: "Life is difficult but even if it is of 10 or 15 years, we will continue the struggle," a defiant teenager said Friday in Nahal, 10 km south of Bethlehem, where border police shot dead five residents Sunday April 13 in one of the bloodiest clashes of the revolt.

In Jerusalem, about 100 Palestinians chanted nationalist and Islamic slogans after prayers at Al Aqsa Mosque. Hundreds of police stood by but did not intervene.

The Jabalya refugee camp, where the intifada erupted on Dec. 9, 1987, looked like a ghost town. The first protests of the uprising flared after four Arab workers were killed in a crash with an Israeli truck.

Reporters on a military-escorted tour of Gaza saw soldiers prevent Muslims from entering their homes to attend Friday prayers, although the muzzies at some mosques chanted the traditional call to prayer.

The biggest West Bank city of Nablus and its surrounding refugee camps were under curfew for the sixth day and the army also imposed curfews on the town of Ramallah and most West Bank refugee camps.

In Bethlehem, army roadblocks prevented Palestinian workers entering Jerusalem, ironically enforcing a three-day boycott of work called by the underground leaders of the uprising.

Despite the curfew, fresh uprising graffiti appeared on walls in some towns and refugee camps. In Hebron, one slogan in black ink said: "Intifada until victory. We die standing and not kneeling."

On the other side, Jewish settlers drove through the West Bank and hung Israeli flags from utility poles and scrawled slogans on Arab-owned homes to assert their claim to the occupied territories.

"We will fight to the end," said one slogan written in Hebrew on a wall in Bethlehem.

In the Golan Heights, "annexed" from Syria after being occupied in the 1967 war, members of the minority Druze sect raised Syrian flags in support of the Palestinian uprising, witnesses said.

The intifada has cost hundreds of lives, thousands of injuries and jailings, and millions of dollars in lost income for both Palestinians and Israelis.

During the uprising, 626 Palestinians have been killed by Israelis, and 155 others have been slain by unknown assailants as alleged collaborators. Forty-three Israelis also have been killed.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said on Israel radio Friday that the revolt was costing Israel about two billion shekels (\$1 billion) a year.

"It is already enough to fill the budgets of six or seven government ministries," he said.

In Tunis, Arab states meeting on the eve of the anniversary of the uprising pledged Friday to back the revolt until Palestinians had their own state.

A special meeting of the Arab League Council, called by the Palestine Liberation Organisation to mark the anniversary, also called on the U.N. Security Council to stop Israel's attempts to suppress the uprising.

"The council affirms that vic-

tory will be the ally of the just Palestinian cause and the occupying usurper will be defeated and the Arab Nation will continue to support the Palestinian people in its struggle until its objective is achieved," a statement said.

The council met at permanent delegate (ambassador) level.

In Baghdad, political parties and organisations from several Arab countries gathered Friday to form an organisation called the Arab Popular Front to Support the Uprising.

Representatives of political parties from about 16 Arab countries and the PLO factions met on to inaugurate the new organisation.

Latif Nassayif Jassim, Iraq's minister of information, opened the meeting by saying the Arabs were duty bound to render all material, moral and political support for the intifada which he described as "a legendary revolution which should take its full course to implement its objectives."

"The curse of history will afflict us if we let down our people in the occupied territories and leave them alone facing the Zionist oppression," Jassim told the meeting.

Iraq proposed forming the new front in cooperation with the PLO to unite Arab support for the intifada.

The front will officially be announced Saturday during a mass rally in Baghdad to mark the anniversary of the intifada.



A young Palestinian girl struggles with Israeli policemen as she is arrested outside Arab Jerusalem bus station. The policeman on her right carries a tear-gas gun.

Arab panel revives Lebanon peace bid

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Foreign ministers of the Arab League's Lebanon committee will visit Damascus Saturday at the start of a new peace drive.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Ghazali said in an interview with Beirut's Al Safir newspaper Friday that he and his counterparts from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Morocco, Palestinian and Syrian officials.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) monitored in Nicosia carried a similar report.

Christian army chief General Michel Aoun, entrenched in east Beirut's Christian enclave, has refused to recognise the authority of President Elias Hrawi who was elected last month under an accord drawn up in the Saudi resort of Taif with Arab League mediation.

"Every day that passes increases the danger to the Taif agreement. Aoun is playing on this tension. Everyone who supports Aoun is against the Taif agreement," Ghazali said.

"This means that they are against reform and want the return to the old Lebanon or the rise of two Lebanons," he added.

Ghazali said neither Hrawi nor the Syrian government which backs him wanted a military solution to Aoun's defiance.

Meanwhile rival Shi'ite Muslim militias battled in teeming residential districts of west Beirut for a second day running, killing 10 people, police said Friday.

Police said the dead included four children less than eight years old shot by snipers in their apartments overnight.

Hassan Hamdan, 7, was shot in the head by a sniper when he switched on the light at his bedroom in Mossaitbeh, a low-income residential district controlled by the mainstream Shi'ite Amal militia.

Police said 20 people were wounded in the clashes which broke out around noon Thursday between Amal and the pro-Iranian Hizbollah for dominance of five residential districts.

Syrians armed with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades moved into at least five neighbourhoods where the Syrian-backed Amal and Hizbollah have battled since noon Thursday.

Security and hospital sources said 10 people had been killed and 20 wounded in the inter-militia fighting, while witnesses said another two militiamen were killed by the Syrian soldiers Friday.

The witnesses said Syrian troops rounded up many militiamen from both groups in the Bourj Abou Haidar area, where the fiercest fighting erupted, and took them by truck to an unknown destination.

Streets in areas torn by fighting were stained with blood and littered with broken glass and concrete fragments. Scores of cars were peppered with shrapnel or gutted by fire.

As the Syrian presence quelled fighting, residents began to leave their bomb shelters.

"I will never feel safe until militia are disbanded for good because the minute the Syrians go away, the militiamen come back," said one resident, Wisal Welheb.

PLO aide says Palestine will merge with Jordan

WASHINGTON (R) — A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has said that an independent Palestinian state would seek a confederation with Jordan five minutes after it was created.

"We decided that five minutes after we have our state, we will make our confederation with Jordan," said Khaled Al Hassan, chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Palestine National Council (PNC) and a senior aide of PLO leader Yasser Arafat.

Al Hassan, who is regarded as one of the architects of PLO foreign policy, told a seminar organised by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies the confederation proposal was designed to ease Israeli fears about the threat to its "security" posed by an independent Palestinian state.

Israeli diplomats attending the seminar made a hasty exit when they realised that Al Hassan was to make an unscheduled appearance. Israeli law forbids any contact between Israeli citizens and PLO officials.

Referring to current efforts to convene peace talks between a Palestinian delegation and Israel, Al Hassan reiterated that the Palestinian representatives had to be chosen by the PLO.

Israel says it will not come to the talks unless the PLO is kept out of the process.

Al Hassan said he did not believe Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir was interested in peace.

"I don't think Shamir wants peace because he wants the West Bank and Gaza with 30 per cent of the population for cheap labour and the rest to be transferred," he said.

In Tunis, Arafat Thursday asked the Palestinians not to give up their dream of a Palestinian state or their two-year-old uprising.

In a speech to mark the start of the third year of the uprising on Saturday, Arafat said:

"I say to those in Hebron and Jerusalem 'patience, patience, we are with you, we have a pledge with victory, a pledge with the Palestinian state'."

"We will not tire but will go on, martyr after martyr, generation after generation... there is much talk, many statements, many projects, big and small, but our nerves are strong and there's time enough," he added.

"We can go on another two years and two years after that. Nobody can intimidate us."

Israel backs U.S. plan for tripartite meeting

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel decided Friday to send Foreign Minister Moshe Arens to Washington for meetings with his U.S. and Egyptian counterparts that could lead for the first time to formal Israeli-Palestinian talks.

In a decision that brought protests from opposition politicians and right-wing rebels within the government, Arens, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Vice-Premier Shimon Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin agreed to start arrangements for the meeting, prompted by Egypt's approval of a U.S. peace plan.

"It was decided... to hold preparatory contacts prior to a meeting of the three foreign ministers," cabinet secretary Eliakim Rubinstein told reporters.

The planned meeting in Washington represents the latest U.S. attempt to mediate differences between Israel and the Palestinians over Israel's proposal for elections in the occupied territories.

The Israeli plan, adopted in May, calls for the 1.7 million Palestinians in the occupied lands to elect representatives who would negotiate with Israel. The initial talks would be aimed at reaching an interim settlement giving the Palestinians limited self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza.

U.S. Secretary of State James Baker Oct. 10 called for an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Egypt to decide the election procedure.

Israel conditionally accepted the Baker plan last month and Egypt — after consulting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) — approved it in principle Wednesday.

The Israeli daily Hadasot Friday reported from Washington that the Soviet Union was putting out feelers to join the Washington talks but Israeli officials said they had no knowledge of any Soviet request to take part.

Israel has repeatedly said there can be no Soviet role in peace efforts before Moscow restores diplomatic ties.

The right-wing opposition Tehiya Party said the talks would lead to an Israeli pullout from the occupied territories and the creation of a Palestinian state and called on members of Shamir's own rightist Likud party to fight the plan.

Deputy-Premier David Levy, one of three rebel Likud ministers, slammed the four leaders for acting on the Egyptian response to Baker's plan without briefing cabinet colleagues.

"What is happening here is very grave. We have seen no message. We received no information whatsoever on the content... I greatly fear that this will lead us into deep crises," he told Israel radio.

The Israeli election plan has been criticised by the PLO and Palestinian leaders in the territories for attempting to cut the PLO out of the negotiating process.

E. Germans debate fate, Prague meets opposition

EAST BERLIN (R) — The peaceful revolution in East European communism gathered momentum Friday with the party's fate in East Germany hanging in the balance and Czechoslovakia weighing the appointment of a new opposition leader as president.

Members of the once omnipotent East German Communist Party, still reeling from the resignation of its entire leadership Sunday, rushed to East Berlin for a hastily-called congress that could see the party renamed, reformed or split in two.

Reformers in Bulgaria's Communist Party opened a central committee meeting in Sofia three days ahead of schedule as tens of thousands of people prepared for a weekend rally to call for the end to the party's monopoly on power.

Bulgaria has been swept by a tide of democratic change since the ousting of veteran leader Todor Zhivkov last month and Western diplomats said the Communists might be planning to make more personnel and policy changes before Sunday's rally.

As East Germany's government continued a crackdown on corruption among former high-level party officials, announcing charges against nine disgraced ex-leaders, Czechoslovakia's Communist Party opened talks with the opposition on forming a new government and opposition playwright Vaclav Havel edged closer to becoming the country's reluctant president.


The pro-democracy Civic Forum planned to nominate Havel, its leading figure, to succeed hardline President Gustav Husak, according to a top forum source.

Citicorp and Citibank vice-chairman and director arrives

AMMAN — Paul J. Collins, vice chairman and director of Citicorp and Citibank and senior corporate officer for Europe and the Middle East, has arrived in Amman as part of a Middle Eastern tour which has included so far Saudi Arabia, Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Bahrain. Mr. Collins, who is accompanied by Mr. Shaikat Aziz, division head of Citibank's operations in the Middle East and South East Europe, will be calling on high-ranking government officials and regulators to discuss various business issues and opportunities relating to Citibank's activities in Jordan.

This is Mr. Collins' first visit to Jordan. This senior Citicorp/Citibank visit is an important one and reflects Citibank's strong commitment to Jordan and to the region.

Citicorp, with its subsidiaries and affiliates, is a global financial services organisation and one of the largest in the world, with total assets of over \$207 billion. With a staff of 89,000 people, Citicorp serves the financial needs of individuals, businesses, governments, and financial institutions in over 3,000 locations in the United States and in 88 other countries throughout the world. Citibank started its operations in Jordan in 1974.



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Prince Hamzeh presents awards

AMMAN — His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Al Hussein Thursday attended the celebration held by the Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry to honour winners in the national Quranic competition and distributed awards to the 18 winners and taken gifts to the participants. Prince Hamzeh conveyed to the participants the greetings of His Majesty King Hussein and congratulated the winners. A total of 500 contestants took part in the competition, which organised annually by the ministry. The Ministry of Awqaf Secretary General Ahmad Helayyel welcomed Prince Hamzeh and requested him to convey the greetings and high appreciation of the participants to King Hussein, for allocating Royal Awards to participants in the competition. The picture shows Prince Hamzeh presenting an award to one of the participants (Petra photo).

Meeting on management of Japanese industrial management opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — Under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, a symposium on management of industrial complexes in Japan will be held in Amman Saturday. The symposium, organised by the Higher Council for Science and Technology in cooperation with Amman Chamber of Industry and the Japanese Centre of Cooperation with the Middle East, aims to acquaint businessmen and industrialists on the Japanese methods and strategies in developing and promoting industry. Taking part in the symposium will be a large number of businessmen, economists, industrialists, company directors and Japanese experts. The Japanese experts will discuss the Japanese industry, the economic system, means of developing small and medium size industries and transfer of industrial technology to some Asian countries.

Senate, Lower House to convene Saturday

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament will meet Saturday to elect the House's standing council and three members to the House's Higher Council. It will also elect the legal, financial, administrative and external relations councils, in addition to any other permanent or temporary committees.

Lower House to meet

The Lower House will also meet under its Chairman Suleiman Arar to elect the first deputy speaker, to succeed Ali Al Faqir, who was named Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in the government of Prime Minister Mudar Badran, and the temporary committees. The council will discuss three letters, one dealing with the formation of temporary committees to discuss the financial and economic crisis, general freedoms, adherence to the constitution, the martial law, the prices and unemployment problems. The letters were signed by 22 deputies. A second letter requesting that the deputies contribute their one month salary to the Palestinian uprising, will also be discussed. The request was signed by 22 deputies. A third request made by 14 deputies called for the formation of a committee to investigate in the reasons for the deteriorating economic situation in the country. The House will also look into three suggestions made by some Lower House members. These suggestions deal with the situation of the press, supporting the intifada and the annulment of the martial and defence laws, in addition to reconsideration of the legislations of general freedoms, and the judicial system.

NMI OFFICIALS HOLD MEETING: National Medical Institution (NMI) senior officials and directors of hospitals in the Kingdom Thursday held a meeting under the chairmanship of NMI Director General Dr. Abdul Salam Al Majali. The meetings dealt with means to attain the NMI objectives which provides for presenting services to citizens and preserving their health (Petra).



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday chairs the final session of the two-day seminar on environment and development in Amman (Petra photo)

Crown Prince calls for concerted world efforts to end desertification

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday stressed the need for concerted Arab and international efforts to put an end to the desertification problem, which poses a great threat to the world environment.

Prince Hassan noted the role of science and technology in the development process and called for striking a balance between the requirements of the development process and the need to protect the environment from pollution. necessary data and studies to enable the decision-makers to draw up special programmes designed to provide water for all. Prince Hassan warned of the damage to ozone layer. Chairman of the Jordanian Society for the Protection of the Environment from Pollution Ahmad Obeidat outlined the important role played by the non-governmental organisations (NGO) in protecting the environment.

Addressing the final session of a two-day seminar on environment and development, organised by the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources and Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment, in cooperation with the Arab Fund for Socio-Economic Development, Stockholm Institute of Environment and the Arab Thought Forum, Prince Hassan pointed out the political dimensions of the water crisis in the Middle East and called for providing the necessary financial and technical support to the society. Obeidat noted that the society groups more than 1,500 members and that its membership is open to all people concerned. The United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) resident representative Ali Attiga pointed out to Prince Hassan's inaugural speech, in which he called for achieving lasting world peace and security as a prerequisite for finding solutions to the problems of environment at the national, regional and international levels. Attiga called for increasing efforts at all levels to achieve the objectives of the seminar. A number of speakers at the closing session, which was chaired by Prince Hassan, stressed that the future of humanity hinges on the good management of the natural resources and called for adopting the environmental dimension when preparing the socio-economic plans to reduce the dangers to the environment and consequently avoid the undermining of the development achievements.

Education Affairs Council hails Palestinian uprising

TUNIS (Petra) — The Education Affairs Council for the Palestinian Children Thursday hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories, saying that it has converted the Palestinian struggle into a genuine revolution aimed at countering the oppressive Israeli measures and restoring the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people.

At the conclusion of its meetings, the Council issued a statement, calling on all governments to stand by the Palestinian people in its struggle to restore its rights, including its right to self-determination and repatriation, and to establish its own independent state on its national soil, under the leadership of its sole and legitimate representative, the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The statement pointed out to the Israeli oppressive and inhuman measures against the Palestinian people, and noted in particular the closure by the Israeli authorities of 1,600 schools and educational institutions as well as the ensuing deprivation of 500,000 children from their right to education. Taking part in the meetings were representatives for Syria, Jordan, Palestine, Egypt and the Arab League general secretariat in addition to the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation.

Armouti appointed advisor to Prince Hassan

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan has appointed Dr. Mazen Armouti as advisor at his office. Armouti was transferred to this post from the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST) where he served as director of the sector of communication and international relations since HCST was founded in January 1988. Prior to joining HCST, Armouti was professor and founding chairman of the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication at Yarmouk University from 1980-1987.



Dr. Mazen Armouti

Turkey to send more black deer to Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan will receive the second consignment of black deer from Turkey in a week and keep them at Zobia Natural Preserve in Ajloun mountains so as to multiply in their original homeland, according to an agreement reached with the visiting Turkish Forestry Department official and the accompanying delegation. The delegation Thursday left Amman at the conclusion of a week-long visit to Jordan at the invitation of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN).

During the visit, the delegation held talks with a number of officials at the Ministry of Agriculture and the RSCN on means to bolster bilateral cooperation. Talks were also held with officials at the Ministry of Agriculture on means to develop cooperation in the field of forestation. The delegation earlier visited Al Shomari, Dhana, Al Mnjib and Zobia natural preserves and was briefed on various animals living there.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Thursday delegated deputy director of his office Abdullah Kan'an to convey his condolences to the Ayyoub family on the death of the late Rifqa Ibrahim Ayyoub, the mother of Mr. Fouad Ayyoub (Petra).

AMIN RECEIVES IRAQI TEAM: Amman Governor Mohammad Ali Al Amin has said that the Amman Development Council formed in early 1989 a number of committees specialised in the fields of economy, industry, agriculture, and trade and entrusted with the duty of studying development problems and proposing solutions. During a meeting with an Iraqi delegation representing local administration Thursday, Amin explained the development of local administration in Jordan as well as the structural organisation of Amman Governorate and its relationship with the Ministry of Interior. The head of the Iraqi delegation noted that the visit to Jordan is part of a tour covering the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) countries and that it is designed to get information about local administration in these countries and the laws implemented there. The Iraqi delegation toured various Amman Governorate departments and was briefed on the activities of all departments (Petra).

JORDANIANS FINE IN MANILA: The Jordanian honorary consul in Manila has sent a cable to the Jordanian embassy in Tokyo noting that all the Jordanian students in Manila are fine and that no incidents were reported in the wake of the latest events which took place in the Philippines, according to a cable the Foreign Ministry received from the Jordanian embassy in Tokyo (Petra).

SAFADI TO ATTEND CAIRO TALKS: Directors of News Agencies in the four states Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Iraq, North Yemen and Egypt — will meet in Cairo Sunday to discuss prospects of cooperation and coordination in information and integration of engineering networks. The Jordanian delegation to the meeting will be headed by Ali Safadi, director of the Jordanian News Agency (Petra).

HOMSI LEAVES FOR BAGHDAD: Chairman of the Jordan Pharmacists Association Tayseer Al Homsi left Amman Friday at the head of a Jordanian delegation to take part in the 13th session of the Higher Council of Arab Pharmacists Union, due to convene in Baghdad Saturday. The council will discuss the secretary general's report on the union's activities and the requests made to join the union's membership in addition to other issues covering financial, vocational, educational and research fields (Petra).

JBA CHIEF LEAVES FOR SANA'A: Chairman of the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) Walid Abdul Hadi Friday left for Sana'a at the head of a JBA delegation to take part in the four-day meetings of the permanent bureau of the Arab Lawyers Union, which will be held in Sana'a Saturday. Participants will discuss the possibility of holding seminars aimed at assessing the prospects for unifying legislations in both Yemens. They will also discuss other issues of interest to Arab lawyers, including the contemporary criteria for modern jurisprudence (Petra).

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- ### WHAT'S GOING ON
- The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.
- #### EXHIBITIONS
- An exhibition of paintings and etchings inspired by Arabic Islamic art at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
 - An art exhibition by artists from Jordan and other Arab countries at Al Wasiti Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
 - An art exhibition by Ghassan Al Husni, Abid Atwan and Abdullah Nawabdash at the Jordanian Palistic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
 - An exhibition organised by the Goethe Institute entitled "The Blue Rider" at the Jordan University of Science and Technology, Irbid.
 - A book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
 - An exhibition which includes publications on the Palestinian issue at the Yarmouk University.
 - A photographic exhibition, held on the 150th anniversary of the invention of photography, by Karine and Demitrey at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
 - A photography exhibition on French poet de Prevert at the French Cultural Centre.
 - An exhibition of paintings and photographs on the Palestinian intifada at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.
- #### CONCERT
- A concert by YWCA's troupe at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- #### LECTURE
- A lecture entitled "The French Revolution in Photos" by Noel Pavelliere at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.
- #### SEMINAR
- A seminar on "the intifada and the cultural and social values" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 5:00 p.m.
- #### QUIZ
- A general knowledge competition organised by UKAS Club at Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental — 8:00 p.m.
- #### FILMS
- A German film entitled "Tadellöser", English subtitled, at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.
 - Two films entitled "Blackmail" and "The Thirty-Nine Steps" which are shown at the British Council as part of Alfred Hitchcock Film Festival respectively at 5:00 p.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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Right thing to do

THE Palestinian-Egyptian acceptance of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's five-point plan for Israeli-Palestinian talks coincided with the second anniversary of the Palestinian intifada. In spite of its imperfections, the Baker initiative is one of the fruits of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip which enters its third year today. Perhaps even more relevant, the Baker proposal is the only operational idea on Palestinian-Israeli talks that is on the negotiating table. The fact that both sides have consented to it with some reservations also helps make it even more amenable to unqualified acceptance by both the Palestinian and the Israeli sides.

For the Palestinians, the fact that the PLO was not specifically mentioned could still cause formal concern. In substance, however, as the Palestinians and the PLO are two sides of the same coin, the intentional deletion of the Palestine Liberation Organisation from the wording of the Baker's proposal stands to appease the anxieties of Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his Likud bloc yet fails to undermine the elementary role of the PLO in the entire peace process. Surely, every party involved in the peace process in the Middle East, including Israel, knows only too well that when one talks of the Palestinians one thinks of the PLO which has been internationally and regionally accepted as the sole representative of the Palestinian people under occupation.

The Palestinian endorsement of Baker's five-point plan also signals the maturity and sophistication of Palestinian thinking on how to go about realising their dreams and aspirations to have their own state on the Palestinian soil. After so many decades of setbacks, frustrations and regrets, it has become apparent to the Palestinian side that the acquisition of their ultimate objective cannot be attained in one giant leap but rather through years of trials and tribulations and above all in stages. In retrospect all past Palestinian efforts to attain their statehood and independence were frustrated by the insistence and reliance on one step basis rather than on a multi-step approach. Seen against this backdrop, the acceptance of Baker's five-point plan, as imperfect and incomplete as it is, offers one of the initial stages on the road to total salvation and statehood. Besides, by accepting the Baker plan the Arab side has called Tel Aviv's bluff which will help expose the true intentions of the Israeli side that has yet to reconcile itself with the Palestinian rights and aspirations. Moreover, to proceed forward with an initiative bearing the name and address of Washington would be a sure way to win over the support of the U.S. to Arab side. For all these considerations, the acceptance of the Baker proposal was the right thing to do.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday tackled the intifada in the occupied Arab territories which now enters its third year as the Israelis maintain their iron fist policy and continue their siege of cities and the Gaza Strip in particular. The paper said that neither the killings nor the other atrocities and starvation of the Arab population serve the Israelis' purpose and nothing seemed to have helped to subdue the will of the oppressed people who are determined more than ever to seek freedom and to establish an independent state in Palestine. The paper noted that the Israelis have of late escalated their repressive actions against the Palestinians for fear of stepped up resistance activities on the eve of the second anniversary of the intifada, but, it added, nothing seemed to serve their purpose as long as the Palestinians are determined to achieve freedom. The paper, however, said that Arab countries' support and expression of admiration of the Palestinian and action on the part of the world community can by no means help the Palestinians attain their objective and it is time for all peace loving nations to take meaningful stand and embark on a serious action world-wide to help the oppressed people regain their rights and freedoms.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily pays tribute to the Palestinian people and their children who are involved in an uprising against injustice and oppression. Tareq Masarweh says in his column Friday that the uprising is not in support of demands for an improvement of living conditions nor is it a passing incident brought about as a result of abuse of power by the rulers, but rather a real revolution against oppression and occupation and usurpation of land and rights. The writer says that for the past two years the people of Palestine have been involved in offering sacrifices and exerting all efforts to achieve freedom and an end to occupation; and this spirit is still there and the determination is still strong for the achievement of that goal. The writer says that the Palestinian people deserve respect for their continued uprising and deserve support for their endeavour to attain freedom. The writer also calls for intensified efforts on the part of the Arab Nation to back the struggle of their brethren in Palestine and help liberate the holy places.

Al Dastour daily on Friday commented in an editorial on the prime minister's reply to the King's letter of designation to the new government. The paper said that Mudar Badran has pledged to abide by royal directives and to translate them into programmes of action and to safeguard public freedoms. The paper said that the formation of a new government has paved the ground for a new political life in Jordan and the government of Mudar Badran, in cooperation with the new parliament, is bound to pursue the endeavours for further construction and development. The paper noted in particular Badran's pledge to give priority to the economic situation and to carry out the economic reform programme which is intended to bolster the national economy.

Two states in Palestine is the solution for the Middle East conflict

By Bassam Abu Sharif

The following is the full text of an address by Bassam Abu Sharif, advisor to President Yasser Arafat, to the Eton College Middle East Society delivered Nov. 28, 1988.

IN THE PAST 41 years, the Palestinian people have suffered more than any other people in the world. That is why the Palestinians will never inflict suffering on others.

The Palestinians were deprived from their homeland. That is why they know more than those who were not, the meaning of homeland.

The Palestinians were deprived from enjoying basic human rights. Theirs were violated continuously for the past 41 years. That is why they are the most radical when it comes to defending human rights all over the world.

They call for the establishment of their own State and not the destruction of any other people's state.

They want to live and let live. But they are ready to die in defence of their right to be free.

It is much more than land that occupation deprives man of — it deprives man of his dignity, his freedom and his identity.

In a few days time the two superpowers will meet in Malta to discuss bilateral relations but the agenda will also include the dramatic changes that have taken place in Eastern Europe. The Middle East will also be on the agenda. Both Presidents Bush and Gorbachev have expressed their enthusiasm and optimism for their proposed meeting. Both view the Malta summit as a meeting that will have a long-term influence on the political map of the world. Many of us share their view.

The Malta summit will definitely leave its mark on future international relations — particularly with regard to East-West relations and to the Middle East as a whole. It will be the first summit since the world has witnessed the historic developments in the Eastern European countries. The tearing down of the Berlin Wall is in itself a symbolic turning point since the day the Yalta agreement was signed in 1945. This turning point may prove to be the start of a deep and drastic change in the nature of relations between European countries and the two superpowers and the rest of the world. The Malta turning point will not be a coincidence. Rather, it is the result of a long and complicated process of accumulation that started with the decision of the two superpowers to begin a reduction in their nuclear stockpiles. It was this agreed reduction that led to the launching of a new era of détente.

It was impossible for the superpowers to create an atmosphere of cooperation and coexistence without diffusing the wars and conflagrations of the hot regional areas of the world. The diffusing process started, in fact, even before the elaboration of the strategic arms limitation talks and agreement. The United Nations Security Council Resolution to stop the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq was the first sign of a new spirit of cooperation between the two superpowers.

The rest of the world's major regional problems were tackled in view of the new attitude and atmosphere that prevailed. The Central American question, particularly Nicaragua, the Afghan problem and the Namibian problem have since followed.

The Middle East problem, however, remained far from the attention of the superpowers because of its intricate complexity and the fact that the inherent driving forces were not strong enough to put these two great powers on the alert. That remained true until the Dec. 8, 1987 when the Palestinian intifada broke out in occupied Palestine.

Since then, the world community as a whole, the United Nations Security Council and in particular, its five permanent members, focussed their attention on the Middle East in an effort to achieve a comprehensive political settlement.

In a world where change reigns, the Middle East is on the verge of witnessing historical changes. We hope that these changes will be for the good of the whole of mankind everywhere; that these changes will be for protecting human rights in the Middle East; that they will be to protect the democratic rights of man, foremost of which is the right to self-determination.

When the victorious allies met in Yalta it was the balance of forces between them and their defeated enemies that dictated

the outcome and the outline of their agreement. Since then the world has existed and coexisted accordingly.

Nowadays the rules which govern the game of nations are different. It is no longer possible to talk in terms of a world war even between the bitterest of adversaries. The result would be destruction of our planet. The name of the game now is the "balance of interests." The realisation of this change, has to a great extent, helped the great powers to resort to political means in solving regional problems. Compromise is the master card in every game — and so it is in the Middle East.

What interests are there in the Middle East? What balance of interests are there in the Middle East? And what compromise could be attained in the Middle East?

Historically the region has always been a rich and strategically important area. At the present time its importance is even greater. Strategically it is vital for both the East and West, since it shares its borders with both East and West. The whole area forms a vast market for the products of the industrialised nations.

The Middle East is the richest area in the world with regard to oil and other important minerals. It floats on a lake of oil. Thus the region is of vital interest to all oil importing countries. In particular, the Western countries. Stability in the Middle East is therefore of great concern to the whole world but in particular the major powers.

Since the end of the World War II, the Middle East started to enjoy freedom and independence. But at the same time the Palestinian question was created. In 1947 the United Nations passed Resolution 181 which resolved the divide Palestine, the homeland of the Palestinians into two parts:

a) One part on which a state for the Palestinians was to be established.

b) A second part on which a state for Jews was to be established.

At that time, Palestine was administered by Britain under the terms of the Mandate. In 1948, Jewish armed gangs pushed out hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their houses and lands to turn them virtually overnight into refugees in the other part of Palestine and in the neighbouring Arab countries. The result was catastrophic. Since then the Middle East has been in constant turmoil. The region has witnessed several wars. In 1967 Israel occupied the rest of Palestine driving more Palestinians out of their houses and off their land. Two million Palestinians were brought under Israeli occupation. So was East Jerusalem.

Since 1967 successive Israeli governments have planned and worked to annex the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Systematically, the Israeli governments have implemented the following measures to carry out its plans for annexation and the creation of Greater Israel.

During the twenty years of occupation prior to the beginning of the intifada, the most obvious form of illegal abuses was in the form of continuous confiscation of Palestinian land, ostensibly for military purposes and the settling of some of Israel's civilian population, many of them newly arrived emigrants from Ethiopia and the Soviet Union, plus others enticed to the area by heavy government loans and subsidies enabling them to buy property at very low prices. Local laws have been summarily changed to facilitate this illegal expropriation and settlement of land.

With ever increasing Israeli settlement in the occupied territories, Israeli consumption of water drawn from the major aquifer of the West Bank rises steadily. Israeli settlements and their settlers dig their wells deeper than existing Palestinian wells and thus cut off any possibility of increased usage by the Palestinian farmers. Each Palestinian farmer is permitted to draw a certain amount or quota of water each year. If he exceeds the given quota he faces a heavy fine. Since 1967 not one Palestinian farmer, or any other Palestinian for that matter, has been allowed to dig a new well, whereas the Israelis according to various studies have been drawing Palestinian water from the West Bank since 1964 — a full three years before they actually occupied the West Bank.

The restrictions have been vigorously enforced and reinforced by the constant changing of existing laws by the Israeli occupation forces. Current law in

the West Bank is based on the British Emergency Regulations of 1945 when Britain occupied Palestine until 1948. These laws have been inherited and used since 1967 by the Israelis. These draconian laws encompass all aspect of daily life and yet the Israelis since 1967 have managed to create more than another 1,250 military orders in the West Bank and over 900 in the Gaza Strip. The effect of these laws cannot be underestimated. They affect the economy, our culture to such a point as to prohibit the growing of tomatoes and the picking of wild thyme. Permission has to be obtained for a great number of regular daily activities. The importation, publication, distribution of possession of any printed material is strictly forbidden unless a licence is applied for and approved by the civil administration. This is an extraordinarily strong weapon. Decision can be made at almost random, depending on the mood of the adjudicating official. Building permits, family reunification permits, travel documents, drivers licences and many other everyday papers that you take for granted, vital to leading a normal life, can be withheld often for no reason at all, and always without explanation.

In addition to all the aforementioned measures and conditions, the lack of any form of personal freedom, the excessive censorship of newspapers, the imprisonment of our journalists, the censorship of foreign journalists and their reports, the lack of a national anthem, your flag outlawed, no mention of your country in school text books, the atrocious economic conditions, the open sewers in the refugee camps that overflow in winter when the rain comes, the overcrowding in the camps, two rooms often with more than ten people living eating and sleeping in them, the daily exploitation of our labourers as a cheap source of labour by the Israelis, which led the International Labour Organisation to refer to the Gaza Strip, one of the most densely populated areas on the planet, as "Israel's Soweto." These factors along with the feeling of frustration among the Palestinian people due to the

1988. For 53 days the camp's inhabitants endured no electricity or water, cut-off by the Israelis, and at night had to smuggle basic foodstuffs such as bread into the camp at the risk of being shot at. After two years of the intifada, no other town village or camp has suffered such a period under curfew.

The demonstrations call for the establishment of a Palestinian state, a state of their own. This is the concrete from which the Palestinians have chosen to express their right for self-determination. They don't call for the destruction of the state of Israel. Rather, they call for coexistence between the State of Palestine and the State of Israel.

The aim of the Palestinian intifada was embodied in the Palestinian Parliament resolutions that were adopted on the Nov. 15, 1988. The Palestine National Council (PNC) legislated the two-states solution and called for negotiations with Israel, under United Nations auspices and with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council in order to establish a comprehensive political solutions to the 41-year-old Middle East conflict.

da a desperate isolated act. It is indeed an organised, disciplined, non-violent movement which is not intimidated by the fact that it is confronting the strong Israeli army daily.

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"The PLO responded positively to the idea: Free and democratic elections to be held in occupied Palestine as a political step in a process that will lead to the end of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza."

Human rights in the occupied territories were violated on a daily basis prior to the intifada. Since the birth of the intifada, such violations have continued but on a much greater mass-scale. No aspect of Palestinian society has remained untouched or immune to the occupation. Universities were regularly closed prior to the intifada. All universities have been closed, some for as long as a full six months.

Palestinian homes are demolished often with no more than half an hour's warning, usually on the pretext that the house was built without approved permission, or that one of the family was involved in activities against the occupation forces. Many other houses have been forcibly sealed. Literally this means the army seals all entrances and windows with concrete blocks and cement as another form of punishment for "security offences."

In the three years prior to the beginning of the intifada, 46 Palestinians were deported, most of them handcuffed and forced at gun point to walk across the border into Jordan. The deportation of Palestinian nationals from their own soil is a flagrant violation of international law and contrary to all humanitarian considerations. Since the intifada started, a further 61 Palestinians have been deported and many others presently in Israeli prisons are awaiting the same fate.

Since the occupation began in 1967, one third of all the male adult population have passed through the Israeli prison system for political and security offences. All have faced interrogation, and many torture, which takes numerous forms. Israeli torture of Palestinian political prisoners is widely documented by such internationally respected organisations as Amnesty International, by the Sunday Times and even the United States State Department's annual report in 1988 cited Israeli practices as violating the Geneva Convention.

Imprisonment, torture and administrative detention where detainees are held for a renewable six month period without trial and without the Israelis ever having to press formal charges have affected all families in the occupied territories.

Israeli law allows for a child of 14 to be sentenced to up to twenty years in prison for throwing a single stone at an Israeli target. Palestinians are detained for a mandatory eighteen days before even the Red Cross or a lawyer is allowed any form of access to them. This period is usually sufficient to beat any suspect into submission. Some even admit to activities and offences he or she did not actually commit.

Mass punishment most often takes the form of curfews. Curfew, for the Palestinians, means 24 hour confinement to their homes. A whole town, village or camp may be kept under curfew for as long as the area commander of the Israeli army sees fit. The longest period "suffered" by Palestinians living in the occupied territories to curfew was 53 days, endured by the inhabitants of Jalazoun camp near Ramallah in

double standards applied by the major powers with regard to human rights, have further intensified the intifada and led sometimes to more violence. It has always been true that the criteria used to defend human rights elsewhere in the world was never applied to the human rights of the Palestinian people. Similarly the major powers ignored our plight and our demand to live in peace, freedom and dignity and to exercise our right to self-determination, like other human beings. All these factors over a forty years period led our people, the Palestinians in the occupied territories, to the simple conclusion — if the world did not want to listen, they would be forced to listen, and so on Dec. 9, 1987 the intifada was born.

The intifada

The intifada of the Palestinian people against the Israeli occupation forces is in fact a normal human reaction to the unprecedented terrorist measures organised and implemented against the Palestinian people in occupied West Bank and Gaza.

It is resistance to occupation. It is the expression of a strong iron-will to attain freedom. On the eve of the second anniversary of the intifada, the proof that it will continue inspite of the Israeli government's iron fist measures is clearer than ever. In fact, the continuity of the intifada has ridiculed statements like that given by Yitzhak Rabin, promising to crush the intifada in two weeks (Dec. 7, 1987 — the Brookings Institute — Washington).

The intifada of the Palestinian people was triggered as a result of a long accumulation process of resistance experiences. For the Palestinians have been resisting the Israeli occupation since 1967. The occupiers succeeded in containing previous waves of mass resistance. But the accumulated experience helped the Palestinian people to wage the present continuous and widespread intifada. All Palestinians are taking part everywhere in occupied Palestine. That is why we call it the intifada — "the uprising."

The intifada aims at ending the occupation, the attainment of the right for self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

The intifada is the embodiment of the Palestinian national character, identity and political aspirations. Its continuity proves that the aspiration of the Palestinian people for independence is both genuine and profound. The Palestinians proved that they are ready to suffer and die to achieve their aspirations. So far 1,000 Palestinians died in defence of their right to live free under the flag of their own independent state.

The active participation of all social strata means that the intifada is not an act of a few political activists. Rather it is a national act of self defence and resistance. They do not demand an improvement of their life conditions under the Israeli occupation. They simply demand an end to the occupation. Neither is the intifa-

Arafat's initiative for peace

The peace initiative which was launched by President Yasser Arafat a month later was rejected outright by the Israeli government. But this attitude didn't obstruct the good efforts of the world's community to establish peace in the Middle East. However, it is unfortunate to note that at the time, the European Community was throwing in good effort to build on the momentum created by President Arafat's initiative, the U.S. government was reluctant to do so.

Instead the U.S. government lingered until the following May 1989. It was the "Shamir plan" that the U.S. government considered a base for negotiations, neglecting completely the Palestinian initiative launched on the Dec. 13, 1988 by President Arafat. That was not at all an even handed attitude to the Middle East conflict. Nevertheless, the Palestine Liberation Organisation continued to deal with all international efforts to push the peace process forward in a positive and constructive manner. The first main idea that was picked up by the American government to start the process was to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza. That idea, in fact, was proposed by Shamir himself.

The PLO responded positively to the idea: Free and democratic elections to be held in occupied Palestine as a political step in a process that will lead to the end of Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. It was Shamir himself who, for the purpose of blocking the peace process, insisted that the aim of the election is to elect the Palestinian negotiating team. That was, of course, quite ridiculous. The British vote to elect their representatives to the parliament. So do all free nations. They don't elect their negotiating teams. That was not all. It was Shamir himself who declared later that if any of the elected declared his loyalty to the PLO he will be put in prison. A long list of statements given by Israeli officials can be easily produced to prove that the Israeli government does not intend to establish peace. Rather, it intends to annex occupied Palestine.

The plan proposed by Shamir refers to the Palestinian people as "the inhabitants of Judea and Samaria." This is the name that defines the occupied areas as part of Greater Israel. Shamir had publicly referred to the West Bank and Gaza as liberated areas and not occupied (BBC television interview conducted by Mr. Peter Snow). Shamir continues to reject the idea of negotiating with the PLO and insists on choosing Palestinians of his choice for that purpose.

The Israeli government has denied so far the Palestinians their rights for self-determination and statehood. The Israeli government continues the implementation of the iron-fist policy, terrorist measures against the Palestinian people, giving priority to destroying them rather than talking with them. — Israeli government rejected the ten points proposed by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. The Egyptian ten points proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks on "modalities of elections" in the West Bank and Gaza.

The latest Israeli rejectionist position was expressed by Mr. Shamir by putting two obstructive preconditions to Mr. Baker's five point proposal. Mr. Baker's points aim at paving the way for Palestinian-Israeli dialogue to be held in Cairo. The Israeli government insisted that the PLO

should have nothing to do with the formation or the designation of the Palestinian delegation and that Israel should have a very right on the formation of a delegation to the proposed meeting. The Israeli government insisted to limit the agenda of talks to one point: elections, venturing any discussion of peace process.

However, the PLO kept positive and constructive attitude to the proposed idea. President Arafat announced publicly that the PLO is ready to start negotiations with the Israeli government without preconditions.

Que faire?

It is very clear now that the Israeli government is not willing to implement U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 that ask Israel to withdraw from the Arab occupied territories (1967). It is also clear that the Israeli government plans to annex the West Bank and Gaza the same way it had annexed the Syrian Golan Heights. It is also clear that the Israeli government is defying the world community including states that have helped Israel all through since its establishment in 1948.

What is to be done?

The basic danger that such an Israeli attitude creates is not only the continuation of the deplorable and painful situation prevailing in occupied Palestine. Rather, it is the feeling of frustration that it creates among Palestinians and among the nations of the Middle East. This, more than anything else will open wide the doors of political eruptions all over the Middle East. The intifada might become a Middle East phenomenon and not only a Palestinian one. Such developments will definitely shake the region and turn it unstable at a time in which stability is the most needed factor in a Middle East which is of vital importance to the world.

The responsibility is not any more Palestinian one. It is the responsibility of the world community as a whole and the Security Council of the U.N. in particular. So too the two superpowers and the other permanent members of the Security Council have been extending their good efforts to convince Mr. Shamir that the peace process should be initiated. But it is very clear now to the European community, the Security Council including the two superpowers that the Israeli government is manoeuvring to gain time betting on its ability to crush the intifada. But since the intifada is deeply rooted because it expresses the will of the Palestinians to live free, the Israeli occupation forces will do nothing but increase the sufferings of the Palestinian people. The eventual result will be providing opportunities for extremists to blow up the peace process.

That is why it is extremely important that the two superpowers discuss the necessary practical measures to push the peace process forward during the Malta summit.

The European Community can and should play a catalytic role. The Israeli government must realise that the world community will not let it get away with its annexationist ambitions.

On the other hand, the Palestinians will continue their efforts to establish peace. They will also continue their struggle for freedom. Resistance to occupation will continue as long as occupation prevails. Israeli violence will be getting nothing but resistance. It is also important to note that the level of resistance to occupation will be stepped up.

We will go ahead with our plans for the open general strike and the national civil disobedience. But at the same time we will start constructing the institutions of our independent state.

Historical developments could not be stopped by those who are still dreaming of expansion and enslaving others. Such developments will not be created by the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people alone but also by the brave Israelis who realise that the establishment of a Palestinian state is the only factor of stability that will help to establish a lasting peace in the Middle East. Both Palestinians and Israelis who struggle for that are in fact building a better future for the coming generations — Arab and Jewish.

The Palestinian people are calling upon the world and in particular the United Kingdom, which bears a particular moral and political responsibility towards the conflict in our area to help establish a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. If this opportunity is lost, the entire world will suffer the impact of a conflagration in the Middle East.

Freedom is what we want and freedom we will get.

Medical implications of Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza

This is the first of a two part article about the medical implications of Israeli practices in the occupied West Bank and Gaza

By Nasri J.S. Khoury, M.B., Ch.B., F.R.C.S (C), D.A.B.N.S.
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Introduction

SINCE the beginning of occupation, the medical situation in the occupied West Bank and Gaza has been deteriorating due to specific policies of the Israeli authorities. When the intifada (uprising) started, the strain on the health services became much more severe. Practices of the Israeli occupation authorities in trying to crush the intifada have resulted in a large number of serious injuries. It is most disturbing that in many instances, these injuries have been inflicted in a planned and studied scientific manner. Attempts by anybody trying to alleviate the medical hardships are invariably blocked by the Israeli authorities.

Before discussing the medical services in the occupied territories during the intifada, it is pertinent to review the development of these services over the previous twenty years since the beginning of the occupation. Before 1967, medical services in the West Bank and Gaza were the responsibility of the Jordanian and Egyptian governments respectively. Hospitals were either governmental or non-governmental. After occupation, the Israeli occupation authorities took over the administration of the government hospitals.

Deterioration of health services during occupation

In keeping with the policy of undermining Palestinian institutions in the occupied territories, the Israeli authorities tried to limit medical development in the area. The maintenance of hospitals was ignored, introduction of new equipment was kept to a minimum and little was done to improve the quality of personnel. The rate of deterioration of government health services took an acute turn to the worse towards the mid to late seventies. This coincided with the time the extremist Likud Party took power in Israel.

In 1967, government hospitals numbered twelve and three were about to open. Since then, six

have been closed down by the Israeli authorities and now, only nine are functioning. Ironically a hospital that was being built just before the occupation was transformed by the Israeli authorities to a central police station and another into a prison. The total number of beds available in government hospitals dropped from 2,220 in 1967 to 1,803 in 1985; a decrease of 417 beds. The population of the occupied areas increased by just over 500,000 in that period of time. That is, the number of beds per thousand population dropped by just over a half from 2.3 to 1.2 (the ratio in Israel is 6.6 beds per thousand population). The amount of funds allocated by the Israeli authorities to the health services in the occupied territories was also progressively reduced over the twenty two years of occupation. Between 1978 and 1984, Israel increased its health budget from \$1.139 million to \$1.931 million. Its allocation to the West Bank on the other hand was decreased in the same period of time from \$25 million to a mere \$4 million. That is, the Israeli health budget in 1984 was increased to 170 per cent of its value in 1978 while that of the West Bank was slashed to 15 per cent.

The catastrophic deterioration of the government health services forced the non-government hospitals to fill the resultant gap. New hospitals were opened and existing ones tried to expand despite Israeli obstructions to any attempt at development. Building licences for medical facilities were very difficult to obtain and many obstacles were placed in the way of efforts to improve (e.g. levying taxes on donated medicines and medical equipment). Needless to say, the development of the services of the non-government medical sector fell far short of the services in Israel or neighbouring Jordan. However, it was still far better than that of the government sector.

In 1978, the Israeli authorities introduced a "health insurance scheme" in the occupied territories. Those working in government institutions were forced to join while others were given the choice. The services provided were quite inadequate in most instances. When a specific service

which was unavailable in Palestinian hospitals was needed (e.g. neurosurgery), patients were transferred to Israeli hospitals. The cost of treatment of any patient transferred to Israeli hospitals was ultimately deducted from the budget allocated by the government to the occupied territories. Ironically, rather than needing subsidy like most other government insurance schemes the world over, the Israeli health insurance scheme provided a source of income for the occupation authorities.

In December 1987 and on the eve of the intifada, medical services were desperately wanting in the West Bank and Gaza. Government hospitals had deteriorated to a level which would be considered inadequate by most standards and non-government hospitals were struggling desperately to maintain a minimum of standards. It is such a medical service that had to cope with the large number of injured which resulted from practices of the Israeli occupation authorities during the intifada. What made the situation even more serious was the fact that the medical body in the occupied territories was largely inexperienced and inadequately prepared to deal with a large number of war injuries.

Patterns of injuries during the intifada

During the first couple of months of the intifada, the Israeli occupation authorities were taken by surprise at the spontaneity and extent of popular resistance to the occupation army. The initial response was to live ammunition indiscriminately at demonstrators. Such actions caused a number of deaths amongst the youngsters and their funerals generated further demonstrations. By February 1988, the Israeli authorities realised that they had a massive popular uprising on their hands and that their policies were not only failing, but also "adding fuel to the fire." It is then that they felt it necessary to handle the intifada in a "scientific way."

Breaking bones policy

It was around that time that the so called "breaking bones policy" was introduced. When bones are broken, they have to be placed in a cast for a minimum of eight

weeks until primary healing occurs. It actually takes about six months until complete healing is achieved. During that time, persistent pain, muscle wasting and the risk of refracture limits the ability of one to use the area around the broken part. It was with these facts in mind that the Israeli authorities introduced the "breaking bones policy."

The implementation of this policy entailed seizing the largest number of civilians who were at risk of demonstrating and breaking their bones. Usually, it was those demonstrating that were seized and beaten but on many occasions, youngsters would be chosen at random for these beatings. Soldiers would either use their hands, clubs or big rocks to inflict maximal injury to the largest number of bones in the body. The upper limbs were generally preferred but lower limbs were not spared. The beat was often hit with the intention of producing an adequate amount of bruising around the eyes making it subsequently difficult for the victim to see. The ribs and the rest of the torso were invariably hit, also adding to the list of injuries. It was not unusual to see a patient having been hit by the army with half a dozen or even a dozen separate fractures throughout his body. These fractures were obviously associated with a variety of soft tissue injuries.

Automatic stone thrower

When the "breaking bones policy" failed to contain the intifada, the Israeli authorities devised other means to combat the crowds. One of these was the automatic stone thrower. This was a machine which had a container full of stones and a mechanical arm that repeatedly ejected these stones. Stones would hit crowds inflicting a variety of injuries. This was considered to be an efficient way to control crowds.

Tear gas

By far the most commonly used weapon against demonstrators is tear gas. At least two types are used: CS (Orthochlorobenzylidene malonitrile) and CN (Chloroacetophenone) gas. These are composed of chemical toxins that, in relatively small doses, act as irritants to the eyes and mucous membrane of the respiratory tract from the nose all



The pains of occupation

the way down to the lungs. They cause a burning sensation and result in excessive secretions. In large doses, tear gas penetrates the alveolar lining of the lungs and enters the blood stream from where it is circulated throughout the body affecting all organs. If exposure is massive, loss of consciousness may result. If, on the other hand, direct contact to skin occurs, chemical burns are caused. Cases of epilepsy and encephalopathy have been reported after exposure to tear gas but the commonest side effect has been intra uterine fetal death. The fetus in the pregnant uterus is known to be very sensitive to chemicals circulating in the blood stream as well as the lack of oxygen. Both these factors are instrumental in causing abortions following exposure to tear gas.

Tear gas is not meant to be used in confined spaces and when it is, the chemicals penetrate the furniture and are re-emitted subsequently over a number of ensuing days. Most frequently, tear gas is fired into the demonstrating crowds. However, on many occasions it has been fired into buildings including hospitals and schools. A particularly unpleasant practice is firing tear gas into homes during curfew.

Demonstrating children often pick up the gas canisters and throw them back at the soldiers. In response to this, the Israeli army devised a canister with a rubber casing that continues to bounce around upon hitting the

ground until it has been completely spent.

To date, nobody has ever used tear gas as frequently nor for as long a time as the Israelis. Scientific data on the effect of tear gas on the body is rather scarce. Of particular concern is the long term effect of tear gas following repeated exposure. It is quite likely that this repeated exposure would cause a variety of lung, liver and other organ diseases. Chemical toxins are known to be carcinogenic and it is a matter of great concern that those exposed to enough tear gas over the last two years may present with a variety of cancers in the future.

Live ammunition

By far the most deadly weapon used by the Israeli army is live ammunition. The bullets used are characterised according to their speed, weight and the type of metal of which they are made.

High velocity bullets are classified as such when they travel at a speed higher than 750 metres per second. Upon hitting the body, the energy of the bullet is translated into shock waves which travel from the bullet track to the surrounding tissues at the speed of sound causing a great deal of tissue damage. The initial sudden expansion causes a temporary tract much wider than the primary missile tract. As a result, a vacuum is formed which sucks foreign debris into the primary tract and may also cause local blood vessel and nerve damage because of the cavitation forces

thus created. The kinetic energy of any missile is the product of its mass and velocity. The M16 and Uzi submachine guns which are most commonly used by the Israeli army have a muzzle velocity of 1,000 metres per second and use bullets that weigh 3.5 grammes. Their use in civilian confrontation is most devastating on the victim. Not only is the acute injury most disabling but because of the wide diameter of tissue devitalised by the injury, healing is poor and complications and long term disabilities are frequent.

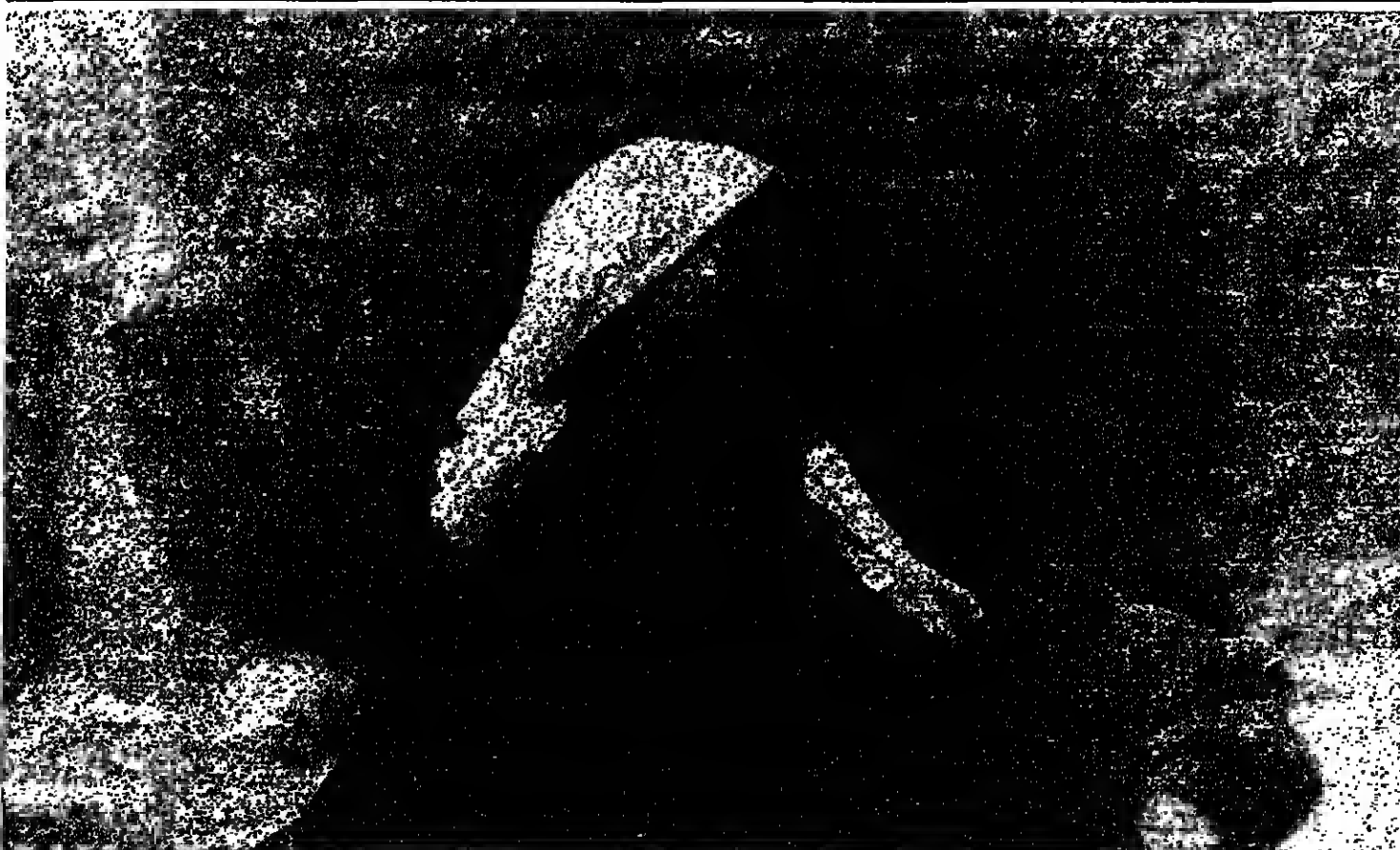
Another characteristic of bullets is the hardness of the metal from which they are made. Soft nosed bullets, as opposed to the harder so called full metal jacket, fragment upon impact particularly after hitting a relatively hard material such as bone. After fragmentation, the single bullet would give rise to a number of smaller missiles that travel in many different directions causing damage in each separate track. This characteristic further adds to the injuring capacity of the bullet and its potential for causing extensive damage.

The use of soft nosed high velocity bullets has continued throughout the intifada and many civilians have been mortally wounded. Others surviving the injury invariably go through a stormy course of recovery often suffering serious complications and long term disability due to the extensive nature of the injury.

Rubber bullets

The commonest type of missile used by the Israeli army for crowd control is the rubber bullet. The term rubber bullet is actually a misnomer because it is composed of a relatively large steel core surrounded by a layer of rubber. It weighs 15.4 grammes and its heavy weight gives it a great deal of injuring potential. Rubber bullets are supposed to be fired from a distance in excess of 100 metres away from the victim so that its velocity is sufficiently reduced by the time it hits the target. Frequently, Israeli soldiers fire rubber bullets at very close distances. Because the bullets have a metal core and are thus heavy, while they are travelling at high velocity, they can and do penetrate the body. When they do, the damage they produce would be just like any other penetrating missile. That is, dangerous injury and death may result as has been reported on many occasions. Because some Israeli soldiers are under the false impression that rubber bullets are harmless, the liberal use of these bullets has resulted in a significant increase in the number of injuries.

One structure that is particularly vulnerable to rubber bullets is the eye. It is a soft structure that is exposed and thus susceptible to serious injury. There have been a number of eye injuries reported from rubber bullets. The injury is usually so severe that removal of the eye is necessary.



Palestinian woman fights the occupation

Israel attempts to ban song on intifada

JERUSALEM. (Agencies) — Hardline directors of the state broadcasting authority angered leftist politicians and pop music fans Wednesday by attempting to ban two songs protesting Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising.

The records are by two of Israel's most popular women singers, Hava Alberstein and Nurit Galron.

Shlomo Kor, deputy chairman of the Broadcasting Authority and an appointee of Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud party, called the songs PLO propaganda which served Israel's enemies.

The Labour Party, junior partner in the ruling coalition, disagreed and Education Minister Yitzhak Navon delayed the ban to allow an appeal.

A decision to ban the songs was taken in a split vote by the Broadcasting Authority's board of directors against the wishes of its

chairman, Aharon Harel, a Labour appointee.

Alberstein's song, "One kid goat" uses a tune sung at Passover and invokes the history of the Jews as victims of oppression to protest against the army's "iron fist" policies in combatting the uprising.

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the two-year-old revolt in which nearly 600 Arabs have been killed by Israeli troops or civilians.

There is a state of stones and petrol bombs.

There is Tel Aviv burning. With nightclubs and acts of lechery.

There is a state of rebels dressing their wounds.

And Tel Aviv is partying. Living, eating and drinking. No, don't tell me about a girl who lost her eye.

This makes me feel bad, had, bad.

I don't like hearing about people oppressed or tortured.

I don't care what is happening in the territories.

We will make love and live our lives. Tel Aviv is life.

Kor said "why don't they have protest songs against the Arabs killing Jews? These songs depress the state and are propaganda for

the Palestine Liberation Organisation".

"This is a political protest and cannot be heard as entertainment on the television and radio," he said.

He said Galron's song supported the uprising.

"It is possible to think that Israeli soldiers go out every morning, shoot for no reason and take out the eyes of Arab girls. This is a song of the uprising and we simply have to take it off the radio, television and army radio," he said.

Galron said the broadcast authority decision proved her lyrics to be true. "Everyone is closing his eyes and now they are also trying to close our mouths."

"This decision hurts, more on the level of Israeli society than on a personal level... it is very bad from the viewpoint of the society and freedom of speech," she said.

Israelis disguise themselves in order to nab Palestinians

By Sergei Shargorodsky
The Associated Press

KAFR KADDUM, occupied WEST BANK (AP) — Israeli soldiers have been spotted wearing civilian clothes, masks or even the traditional embroidered dresses of Arab women in their effort to capture leaders of the Palestinian uprising.

The tactic of disguise, along with the commandeering of cars with West Bank or Gaza Strip license plates, is designed to fool the lookouts who often guard entrances to Palestinian villages and camps.

On Nov. 21, two 20-year-old men who suffered gunshot wounds were brought to a hospital in the West Bank town of Jenin and told doctors they were in a car fired on by Jewish settlers or other Israelis in civilian clothes.

The army later confirmed two were shot near Jenin, but

said those who fired on them were soldiers who had ordered the car to stop. A spokesman refused comment when asked if the soldiers were wearing standard Western dress.

The pattern of disguise has been emerging for the past three months. During that time, at least four Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip by men who arrived in civilian cars and opened fire on people demonstrating or painting graffiti, Palestinian reporters said.

Army spokesmen confirmed that two of the men were shot by soldiers, but the army has consistently declined official comment on whether the soldiers were using disguises.

In Kafir Kaddum, residents told of Israelis in civilian clothes arriving in the village in a minibus with blue and white West Bank license plates, then opening fire and killing Zaher Obeid, 28, and Fahed

Ishtawi, 14. Obeid's brother Jawad, a retired school principal, stood by a makeshift monument to the victims — a stone pyramid, a sign with a Koranic verse and blood-covered pebbles in a metal can — and told what happened when the vehicle was spotted.

"Some 100 people gathered around... a boy recognised a man inside the car as an army officer who questioned him two days before," Jawad recalled. "Zaher shouted... 'these are spies'."

Half an hour later, Obeid was dead, reportedly chased and shot by one of a dozen soldiers who stormed out of the vehicle with cardboard-covered windows, firing pistols and M-16 assault rifles. Six others were reported wounded in the army action.

The army confirmed the Sept. 10 raid on Kafir Kaddum, 50 kilometres north of Jerusalem. It

said soldiers opened fire after being attacked with stones and metal bars. No references to disguises were made.

details of its operational activities."

But a military source said that security forces use disguises to

The pattern of disguise has been emerging for the past three months. During that time, at least four Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip by men who arrived in civilian cars and opened fire on people demonstrating or painting graffiti, Palestinian reporters said. Army spokesmen confirmed that two of the men were shot by soldiers, but the army has consistently declined official comment on whether the soldiers were using disguises. In Kafir Kaddum, residents told of Israelis in civilian clothes arriving in the village in a minibus with blue and white West Bank licence plates, then opening fire and killing Zaher Obeid, 28, and Fahed Ishtawi.

Army spokesman Col. Nachman Shai, asked about the tactic, said the army "does not reveal

capture Palestinian activists who attack Arabs accused of collaborating with Israel.

Handwritten text in Arabic script, possibly a signature or note.

Life in the intifada

By Mariam M. Shahin

AS the third year of the popular Palestinian uprising (intifada) begins, the steadfastness of the Arabs in Palestine is increasingly being tested.

Eyewitness reports from the West Bank and Gaza Strip indicate that living conditions of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories are worsening. Two such eyewitnesses spoke to the Jordan Times about "the facts and the horrors of life under occupation as the intifada lives on." The eyewitnesses do not associate themselves with any political group or organisation. They do not, however, claim to be indifferent onlookers to the situation in the occupied territories. Their avowed aim is to provide professional know-how to the Palestinians under occupation. Their true identity is withheld for obvious reasons.

At the risk of sounding rhetorical, one does not, once again, want to say that major human rights violations are taking place in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and that the horrors of occupation have scarred and altered the face of Palestinian society. So, that will not be done here. But two people — one man, Steven, and one woman, Norma — agreed to talk about their firsthand experience of life under occupation during the intifada.

The Hospitals

In the West Bank cities of Nablus, Hebron and Ramallah, Norma, a volunteer MD serving in hospitals in the three cities at various intervals, is growing more frustrated by the continued decrease of medical supplies.

As curfews are increasingly being imposed, especially in Nablus, badly needed medical supplies often never reach their destinations. "Of course, the problem is not just the medical supplies; it's the medical attention that victims of the intifada are getting or rather not getting," Norma says.

Since the beginning of the intifada all government hospitals in the territories have so drastically raised their fees that almost no intifada victim could feasibly afford to get treatment at those hospitals. Furthermore, the occupation authorities have imposed a complete ban on local and international journalists wishing to visit public hospitals. The only medical attention that the intifada victims can now receive is through private hospitals — which have limited beds and resources but which are nevertheless willing to treat victims for free.

"The last hospital that I worked in had about 80 beds, which were always full since the intifada victims are growing into the thousands now," Norma said. "Most of the injuries were caused by beatings, shootings and tear-gas inhalation. I have seen Israeli patrols dragging intifada victims out of ambulances and beating them up, and God knows where they take them afterwards," she said.

"They say that the only medicine given to Palestinians under detention is aspirin, which would not do for bullet wounds. Wherever I was working army patrols were always crashing into the hospital, pushing and showing and sometimes beating up doctors and nurses. That was before they pulled the injured off the operating tables into the army jeeps. Once they took a boy off the operating table before I could close him up. Just the other day the Israelis shot dead an ambulance driver while he was driving patients to the hospital. All this happens under normal circumstances. It is more different when there is a curfew."

According to news reports and people coming from the territories curfews are increasing, and in Gaza and cities like Nablus curfews have lasted up to 17 days. "During a curfew the Palestine Red Crescent ambulances have to get permission to move around. But that permission is frequently denied. So there are often no ambulances to get the patients to the hospitals and since there is a curfew no-one can get the patients to any of the hospitals," according to Norma.

The dead

While living victims of the intifada have difficulties in even staying in hospitals, the families of martyrs have an even more awkward time burying their dead. "The Israelis are not allowing funerals of martyrs to take place these days, for reasons that only they can explain. So what is happening is that hospital staff bind, cover and hide the bodies of martyrs so that the Israelis won't find the bodies and so that bereaved families can bury them quietly. I have frequently opened hospital closets and found wrapped up martyrs falling on me. Some-

times they hide them under the stairs or throw them over the walls. The Israelis are trying to deny dignity even to the dead. I think it is the only such situation I have ever heard of," Norma recalls.

Help from abroad

In the Arab World questions are being raised about the fate of substantial amounts of money raised from the Arab states to support the people in the occupied territories. Steven, who has been living in the territories for the past year, says not all of it has reached the intended beneficiaries. "I am not saying the money is not arriving per se but it is arriving too slowly and not enough of it is arriving. People are helping each other out and UNRWA is doing a formidable job. But that is not enough. Even short-term help does not solve the problem. Something has to be done to get long-term relief to the needy, and the needy are growing in numbers," Steven says.

According to Steven, rumours have circulated that people who go to collect the \$500 allocated to every martyr's family have often been given only \$50 but asked to sign a receipt for \$500. When they refuse they are told they would not get any.

"Maybe some of the people who are responsible for delivering the money to the needy should be replaced, if not for anything else just to end the rumours even if they are not true," Steven says.

Different projects are taking root all over the territories. Palestinians are busy building their agricultural cooperatives. Home-grown potatoes, tomatoes and vegetables and homemade dairy products are replacing Israeli production.

"In spite of the Israeli presence, the Palestinians are trying to build an economic infrastructure to make themselves more self-sufficient. There are all sorts of factories, even a clothing manufacturer that is doing very well. In Gaza a glass factory is making glass with the kuffich pattern and Allahu Akbar written on it. But the Israelis are doing their best to prevent the Palestinians from becoming economically independent. Recently the Israeli manufacturing association claimed that a pasta factory in Beit Sahour was illegal because the packaging was in the colours of the Palestinian flag. And when the Israelis impose curfews they simply stomp some of the businesses, such as the dairy factory," Steven says.

Religion

International and Israeli papers have increasingly printed stories that the influence of Islamic movements, such as Hamas in Gaza, is increasing as the intifada continues. Steven and Norma, both non-Muslim Europeans, feel that such assessments are incorrect.

"I frequently go and stay in Gaza, which is very different from the West Bank. But from living with people in the camps and talking to Hamas members and non-Islamists as well I think it would be safe to say that the spread of the Islamic movement has come to a halt. The Israeli press in particular have exaggerated the actual influence among Palestinians of organisations such as Hamas," Steven says.

Norma, who recently visited Gaza, says that from talking to people she concluded that, on a political level, Hamas has gained recognition since the intifada began but is by no means an organisation to which the majority of Palestinians would subscribe.

"Because the majority of the Palestinians are Muslims there is a certain almost romantic appeal of an Islamic movement that advocates the liberation of all of Palestine. But the Palestinians are a very politicised and realistic group and there is a big difference between latent support and active membership," Norma believes.

Although some Islamic groups and organisations claim that it was Hamas that played an essential role in triggering the beginning of the intifada, Steven is quick to point out that it was not. "A group called the Islamic Jihad, which are the avowed enemies of Hamas, were active in causing the initial spark of the intifada which was characterised by a series of incidents such as the slaying of the escapes, the initial protests and the car accident. In the first two to three months there was not a single Hamas martyr," he says.

Although speculations were made by the press that the apparent success of Islamists and the Muslim Brotherhood in the Jordanian parliamentary elections in November effected the popularity of the Islamists in the territories, Steven insists that it was "no more than a moral boost for Hamas."

Norma and Steven also believe that the failure of the Israelis to divide the Palestinians into Christians and Muslims has strengthened the view "that most Palestinians under occupation want a secular state. It doesn't mean they are not attached to Islam but they certainly don't seem to want an Islamic state," Steven says.

"No matter what, all Palestinians in the territories have the same primary goal, to keep the intifada going," Norma asserts.

"For now," Norma says, "everyone is avoiding conflict between ideological groups because they know they will all be losers if they are divided. The non-Islamists are upset that Hamas has refused to enter a national consensus, but it has not gone further."

Women

Initially it appeared that the role of the Palestinian women in the intifada would mean a real change of their role in Palestinian society. "Women were out in the streets, getting beaten up, injured and sometimes imprisoned and killed," Norma says. But as in many conflicts around the world, her role seems to have got only more complicated and non-fufilling by any yardstick.

"Yes, I would say that the role of the Palestinian woman has changed since the intifada began. Now there is more pressure on her. She is sharing the economic burden, especially when the family's breadwinner is injured, imprisoned or killed. Women are more economically restrained, are being forced by de facto circumstances to live on a subsistence level and are being restrained more than ever by social controls," says Norma.

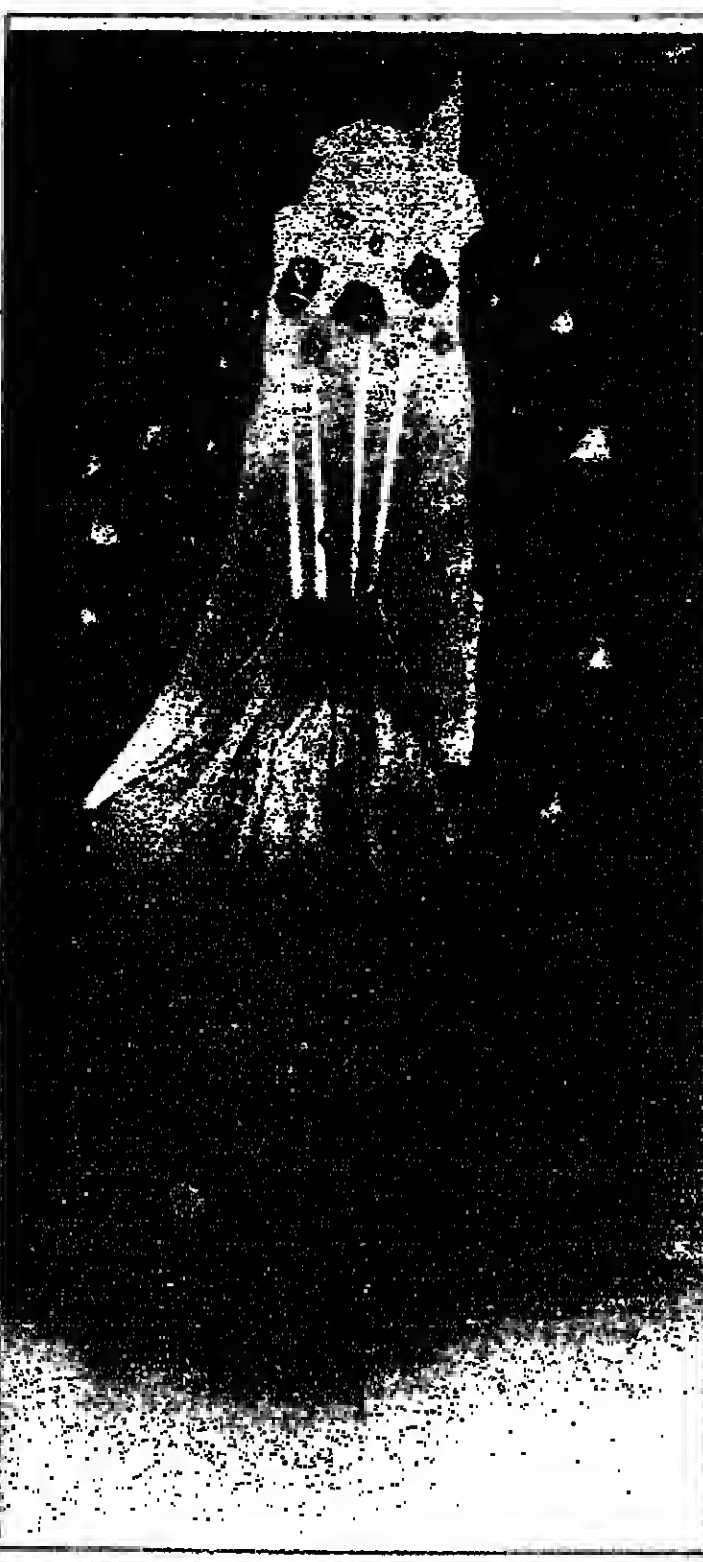
"The situation in Gaza, overall, is not comparable to the West Bank. Gaza is hell," Norma insists.

Steven says that some men have explained to him that despite the fact that they are not deeply religious they impose the wearing of the headscarf on their mothers, sisters and wives for social reasons. "Gaza is conservative," they say, "there is therefore no need to wear short skirts and show off how nice your hair is. It's no time for that, we are at war. I understand the argument of some stringencies in time of conflict, but when people who claim to be members of Marxist-Leninist thought make their sisters stay at home and wear headscarves, they may be deviating from their avowed views substantially," Steven argues.

In Gaza, 50 per cent of the population is estimated to be under 15 years of age, and, according to Norma, a lot of girls are getting married "very young."

"There is a major boom in teenage brides. Parents have lots of children and want one less mouth to feed. At the same time the girls can no longer get an education because schools, colleges and universities are usually closed. Many families think it is too dangerous for their daughters and wives to leave home for fear of being beaten, arrested or killed. I know one woman in Gaza who has not been outside her house since the intifada began, but she has had two children," Norma says.

Children is another big issue in the territories. An increase in childbirth has been reported in all parts of the territories but the camps have taken a definite lead. "People say it is very important that a man fathers as many children as fast as he can because soon he may be dead. The family line must continue and a new generation must be born to continue the struggle. I find it sad but I can't really argue with people whose identity is being fought



so violently," Norma concludes.

"Where women could have broken out of their traditional framework is now no longer an issue. It is an issue of survival for the Palestinians as a people. That is what I have been told by almost all the men and women I have talked to. Some of the girls are desperately unhappy, but for the moment at least the national struggle comes first."

Steven says that it is uncommon to find a girl in Gaza who is in her 20s who is not married with children. It is almost impossible to find a woman who does not wear the headscarf in Gaza. "Even Christian women wear the scarf in Gaza. It seems as if it is a statement of defiance against the occupation, although Arab men claim it is a 'necessary cultural adaptation for the moment'."

The egg affair

"Wearing the hijab is like a way of knowing 'who's who' on a moral level in Gaza," Norma says. "But although Hamas has called on all Arab women to wear the hijab it has denied involvement in the egg-throwing incidents that took place in the summer. They have said that the issue of controlling women will be dealt with 'lateron,'" Norma says.

This summer unknown assailants were throwing eggs at women not wearing scarves in Jerusalem, Hebron, and Gaza. A Palestinian women's group subsequently issued a statement decrying the attacks and the united leadership of the intifada said in a statement that the hijab will not be tolerated. The egg attacks subsequently stopped, Norma says.

Norma stresses that the condition of women in the West Bank and the condition of women in Gaza cannot be "lumped together."

"Women in the West Bank are resisting the conservative trends on the whole and are ignoring any attempts to curb their role in the active struggle against the occupation. A few in Gaza are doing the same thing, but it seems for now at least they will have to work within the given confines," Norma says.

The one thing that surprised Norma and Steven the most about the attitude of Palestinians living under occupation was "their sincere belief and feeling of 'oneness' with the rest of the Arab World. As a European who has followed the Palestine conflict for the last 10 years and read so much about its past, it amazed me to hear how much the Palestinians still feel they are part of 'this greater Arab homeland.' Their loyalty like their steadfastness is admirable. I hope it pays off," Norma concludes.

Two years on, where do we go from here?

By P.V. Vivekanand

AS the Palestinian uprising in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip enters a third year Saturday with no signs of abating, there are many unanswered questions. Are the occupied territories being turned into another Northern Ireland — endemic violence and counter-violence with little impact on the international scene? What are the options of the Palestinians at this point in time, continued protests and stone-throwing and making it intolerable for the Israelis to govern the territories, both politically and economically? Could there ever be a political solution enshrining the Palestinian quest for an independent state? And, if there has to be a political solution, what further prices will the Palestinians have to pay to realise it?

Whatever other questions hang in the air, the Palestinians in the occupied territories appear determined to pay whatever price it takes to continue the revolution of the stones. But one of the main dangerous pitfalls round the corner is increased use of firearms against the occupation forces, which could herald a totally new phase in the hitherto-restrained revolt.

"It will bring in a completely new kind of ballgame," commented an Arab diplomat in Amman. "The Israelis appear to be waiting for just such a justification to tighten the screws against the Palestinians. The inherent danger is not only on the ground but also in the form of mass expulsion of Palestinians from the occupied territories."

By and large, reports from the occupied lands indicate that the Palestinians themselves are aware of the danger and a large percentage of them continues to favour the stone as a weapon to pursue the fight. Above everything else, frustration has consolidated their resolve not to back down from the revolt.

But, analysts see the danger of firearms being brought into the intifada as very much real, particularly that the so-called peace process appears to be getting nowhere.

"I think that the realisation has set in among the Palestinians that there is no such thing as a peace process," says Dr. Kamel Abu Jaber, a political science professor at the University of Jordan. "They have seen that Israel, and by extension, the U.S., are in no mood to seek a meaningful settlement of the Palestinian problem and this has further strengthened their commitment to continuing the intifada."

According to Abu Jaber, a situation "similar to Northern Ireland is seen by the Palestinians as better than the de facto situation," where Israel continues its imposed rule.

There is little doubt that this view dominates the Palestinian community, whether inside or outside the occupied lands.

"Of course we are suffering now," said a Palestinian activist from the West Bank during a recent visit to Amman. "And we know that the suffering will be greater in the days to come. But we are convinced that the price that we are paying today is a contribution to the future."

Dr. Musa Keilani, president of the Arab Affairs Council in Amman, says, "If the Palestinians take up weapons against the Israeli army, they will not only vitiate the international sympathy for their cause but also the moral reluctance of the Israeli army not to use heavier-handed actions against stone-throwing protesters."

"The Palestinians themselves appear to be more aware of the danger than anyone else," notes Keilani, a former Jordanian ambassador. "On several occasions, Palestinian students clashing with Israeli soldiers had wrenched control of the troops from machineguns," he says. "But, they promptly returned them to the soldiers after emptying them of bullets. This could be seen as an indication of the Palestinian reluctance to provoke the Israelis into using heavier methods to quell the intifada by using the justification that the Palestinians were themselves using firearms in the uprising."

However, Keilani sees "the Iranian influence which is slowly manifesting itself in the Palestinian society could be detrimental to the peaceful nature of the intifada."

"We have seen that Iranian influence could result in extremist tendencies, bloodshed and violence as the case was in Lebanon," he points out. "The Iranian-backed Hizbollah is the example."

"The Iranian influence," according to Keilani, is evident in positions adopted by the Islamic

resistance movement, Hamas, the dominant group in the Gaza Strip. "Statements by Fathi Siquqi in Gaza and Abdul Aziz Odeh in Lebanon calling for the liberation of all of Palestine — from the Mediterranean to the Jordan River — reflect the Iranian influence," he says. Siquqi is one of the leaders of Islamic Jihad which is believed to be in de facto control of Hamas in Gaza. Odeh, another Hamas activist, was expelled by the occupation authorities to Lebanon in mid-1989.

Israeli officials have admitted that the uprising has taken a heavy toll on the economy of the occupation power in addition to the "security" risks that every Israeli Jew faces while moving around in the occupied territories. But, according to West Bank researcher Meron Benvenisti, occupation is not a burden on the Israeli tax payer since "the residents of the (occupied territories) pay an 'occupation tax' to the occupation authorities."

This argument was challenged by at least one town in the West Bank. Residents of Beit Sahour, a town near Bethlehem, defied Israeli demands for taxes and refused to pay anything. The result: a month's-long curfew and siege of the town and confiscation of residents' property (some estimates put the total value of such seized goods at \$5 million). "But, Beit Sahour has set an example for other West Bank towns to follow," commented an Asian diplomat in Amman. "It showed that refusal to pay taxes to the Israelis could really touch off a raw nerve in the Israeli system which has traditionally depended on Palestinians themselves to financially support the occupation."

But Keilani believes that the American-initiated moves for convening a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue is a "non-recurring opportunity for the PLO and it should take up the challenge and seek to push for more from the Israelis."

Obviously, Keilani does not believe that the "autonomy" arrangement that Israeli is offering as the "light at the end of the tunnel" is not the Zionist state's bottom line.

"There is no such thing as bottom line for Israel or its leaders," Keilani argued. "Anyone who studied Israel's pattern of political behaviour can see that it is a strategem for the Israeli leaders to issue provocative statements aimed at drawing Arab response, which, they hope, will be sub-servient to their designs and plans."

"The PLO should accept the challenge and prove that it has the political acumen and moral stature to diplomatically seek what they want from Israel, and the proposed dialogue is an opportunity to do that," according to Keilani.

Obviously, picking up the Beit Sahour example is an option available to the Palestinians, but many question their ability to maintain such an action against harsh Israeli measures such as blanket sieges, confiscation of property and prolonged curfews as the case was in Beit Sahour.

But a former American diplomat who is currently doing political research at one of Israel's universities believe that the self-styled popular committees and cooperatives which have sprung up in almost every knook and corner of the West Bank and Gaza can contribute to such "civil disobedience."

"The popular committees and cooperatives are indeed seen as the infrastructure of a future Palestinian state," said the diplomat, speaking to the Jordan Times on condition of anonymity. "They have developed the concept of self-reliance to such an extent that most Palestinian villages can depend upon themselves to a large measure for subsistence."

"Inter-dependence is the keyword for them," he says. "If one family does not have enough food, then another family steps in to help without hesitation, knowing very well that they can expect the same thing if the roles were reversed."

Furthermore, he adds, "many villages in the West Bank do not need any of the modern amenities available in the cities and towns. For them, a traditional, typical village is still very much applicable; they can use firewood instead of gas; they have water from village wells instead of piped water; they grow their own food."

The 'peace process'

Few people in the occupied lands are overlooking the very fact that amid the daily Palestinian deaths and injuries, which are seen these days by the media as more or less "routine," the course of the so-called peace process is in a totally different direction than Palestinian aspirations, said the Palestinian activist from the town of Nablus. "What the Israelis are talking about is total capitulation," he said. "We have not paid such a high price in the last 24 months to accept Israeli-arranged elections leading to 'autonomy' and continued occupation."

"Let the Israelis and Americans discuss anything with anyone," he said. "After all, it is us

IS THE Palestinian uprising at a crossroads? Or are the occupied territories slowly being turned into another Northern Ireland with endemic violence but little world impact? Whatever the situation is, the Palestinians have only one option: Continue the revolt and make the territories ungovernable for the occupation power.

ing to Keilani. Furthermore, he argues, "time is not on the side of the Arabs, particularly that hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are expected to arrive in Israel and could be settled in the occupied territories, thus further reducing the chances of Israeli relinquishing the territories."

According to Abu Jaber, however, the PLO has five options at this point in time:

— It can maintain its "peaceful course" and give it some more time to see where it goes. "Obviously, it is clear that it is getting nowhere because of the Israeli and American positions which want peace on Israel's own terms," concedes Abu Jaber.

— The PLO can threaten to call off its "moderate course" and accept the "terrible" price such a stand will extract from the Palestinian leadership as well as lost hopes to establish an independent Palestinian state.

— It can turn its struggle into a "totally violent" liberation movement at whatever the price "come hell or high water" and reaffirm the decades-old call for liberation from "water to water" — meaning all of Palestine.

— It can enact a "created scenario" where "splinter Palestinian groups" resort to increased forms of armed struggle while the PLO leadership maintains its "inability to control such factions and denounces such actions."

— The final option, which Abu Jaber believes is the most "real," is going back to the 1985 agreement on political coordination with Jordan and work towards a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. But, he warns, "it needs genuine feelings and understanding of the situation and firm confidence in each other."

"The financial and human resources of the PLO are vast," he points out. "Coupled with the enormous diplomatic and political resources of Jordan, they could bring in new realities into the scene."

In Abu Jaber's hypothesis, the final option "could lead to anything."

"Don't forget," he says, "first and foremost King Hussein is a nationalist and he will make concessions only to a certain level and to certain ideas and nowhere beyond. The same also applies to the Jordanian people."

"Even if the Palestinian people were to vanish from the face of earth today, the Jordanians will still have to say a lot about Palestine, Jerusalem, the holy places and Arab rights," he asserts.

Iran starts currency reform

NICOSIA (R) — Iran announced Thursday it was reducing the cost of dollars sold to importers by about 18 per cent.

The move, which amounts to an upward revaluation of the rial for some purposes, signals a considerable success in attracting currency trade away from the black market to official dealings at a "competitive rate" introduced two months ago.

It should also help curb inflation by making imports cheaper. Speaking on Tehran radio, central bank governor Mohammad Hossein Adeli said the new rate of 800 rials per dollar would take effect Saturday.

The "competitive rate" applies to imports by a growing number of state-related enterprises and purchases of dozens of items by private businessmen. It started at 1,000 to the dollar on Oct. 8 and had been set daily at 975 to the dollar by the central bank since Oct. 24.

The official rate, used for government dealings and subsidised basic commodities, remains about 72 rials to the dollar.

Adeli said the stronger rate for the rial reflected the balance of supply and demand for foreign exchange.

"It will have a very positive effect because it will reduce the cost of production and create grounds for higher employment,

Tehran residents say prices of some commodities, such as butter and cooking oil, have declined over the past two months but there has not been an overall fall.

Tehran radio, monitored in Nicosia, said the central bank would introduce another exchange rate called "service rate" Sunday.

It will apply to travellers and those who need foreign exchange for studies or medical care abroad but do not qualify to buy at the official rate.

State banks would also buy foreign currency from individuals and enterprises at the service rate, the radio said.

Dollars under the "service rate" are expected to be cheaper than the competitive rate but more expensive than the official rate.

In another report, the radio said the Tehran stock exchange was increasing its two-hour working days to five per week, from the previous three, to cope with growing demand for investment.

It said shares worth 744 million rials (\$10.3 million) were traded on the exchange over the past week — about one-fifth of the volume for the eight months to

Nov. 21.

The government is encouraging investment in shares as an alternative to currency speculation and other inflationary activities.

Adeli said last week the government was drawing up lists of financially-sound state-run firms to put on sale at the stock exchange.

In other reform ideas, Iranian First Vice-President Hassan Ebrahim Habibi suggested Thursday that government offices be moved out of Tehran, celebrating its 200th year as the capital with growing congestion and pollution.

Habibi, opening an exhibition of documents and pictures tracing Tehran's history, was quoted by Tehran radio as saying transferring the capital elsewhere could ease the city's problems.

The proposal was first mooted before the 1979 revolution which touched off a new round of migration from the countryside.

Among the problems facing Tehran's population of 6.7 million are air pollution, inadequate public transport, housing shortages and widespread petty crime.

'Poor need assets, jobs not assistance'

PARIS (R) — Official aid to the world's poorest countries should concentrate less on delivering food packages and more on giving the hungry the means to support themselves, the OECD said in a report.

Emergency aid in the form of food for the starving in such countries as Ethiopia and Sudan remain vital, the Paris-based think-tank's Development Assistance Committee (DAC) said in its 1989 report.

But rich nations needed to be more attentive to the plight of the 700 million people in the world who do not eat enough to lead a productive life, the committee of the 24-nation Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) added.

"Most of the 700 million are not hungry because of drought or civil war. Most are hungry in a much less dramatic way because they lack assets and employment," the DAC said.

These people go hungry even when food is available on local markets because they have no means of buying it.

"At bottom, the most important single action donors could take to reduce hunger would be to support developing country strategies to increase agricultural production and... to increase income in rural areas," the DAC said.

It said direct feeding had emotional appeal but was appropriate only in emergencies or for the unemployed, while the alternative strategy advocated in the report met the criteria for sustainable development.

"It is a hunger strategy, an

agricultural strategy and... an economic strategy," it said.

"It puts people to work, including the landless. It creates capital and helps develop a financial infrastructure. It supports an efficient production process. It creates a healthy, dynamic synergy between rural and urban areas," the report noted.

The report insisted on the importance of improving growth rates in agriculture and infrastructure in farming areas because such a large part of national income in most developing countries was generated in this sector.

It called for a more ambitious scale for development projects and a "democratisation" of aid, meaning resources in education, health and other fields should not be directed at the "urban-privileged" but at the whole population.

Development aid must aim to get all the people participating in production, to give a fairer share-out of benefits.

The DAC consists of the EC Commission plus all OECD nations except Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg, Portugal, Spain and Turkey.

The report said DAC members provided about \$48 billion in development aid in 1988, slightly more than 85 per cent of all concessional aid provided by sovereign nations.

Only Norway, the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden exceeded the United Nations target of providing 0.7 per cent of gross national product in aid, it noted. France contributed 0.72 per cent if aid to its own overseas territories was included.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

CAEU widens financial scope

AMMAN (Petra) — Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim Thursday praised the outcome of the 52nd session which was held in Amman at the level of ministers of economy and trade. Ibrahim voiced appreciation to the efforts made by the participating delegations and lauded the positive atmosphere in which the discussions took place. Ibrahim said that the council approved the recommendations made by a six-member ministerial committee to reconsider the contributions of various Arab countries to the council's budget with a view to broadening the basis of participation in financing the council's annual projects. The council adopted a number of recommendations giving preference to the products of the Arab occupied territories, provided that the Palestinian parties concerned, in cooperation with the council's secretariat and the Jordanian authorities, agree on a mechanism to implement these recommendations. The council decided to accept Egypt's invitation to host the 53rd session in Cairo on June 6, 1990.

ACC housing panels meet this week

BAGHDAD (Petra) — The various joint committees emanating from the ACC housing and reconstruction agreement, endorsed during Sanaa summit, will hold several meetings this month. The panel entrusted with unifying technical terms and organising contracts and tenders will meet in Baghdad Saturday while the committee in charge of unifying the organisation structures and names will meet in Sanaa Monday. The committee, entrusted with unifying the meteorology and specifications will meet in Cairo Tuesday.

Arab antibiotic project commences

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Construction of the 22 million Iraqi dinar antibiotic industries project officially started Thursday. The project is currently being carried out by the Arab Company for Antibiotic Industries, an affiliate of the Amman-based Arab Company for Drug Industries and Medical Appliances (ACDIMA).

Japanese visit industrial city

AMMAN (Petra) — Director-General of the Jordan Industrial Estates Corporation, Fayed Suheimat, Thursday briefed a visiting Japanese delegation on the industrial investment opportunities in Jordan and the existing cooperation between Jordan and Japan. The delegation briefed Suheimat on the Japanese investments abroad and particularly in the Middle East. At the end of their visit, the delegation members toured the industrial city.

Bulgaria reveals foreign debt figure

SOFIA (R) — Bulgaria's new communist leaders, anxious to salvage the country's deteriorating economy, have revealed foreign currency debts of some \$10 billion, the official BTA news agency has said. "We are hoping that a Communist Party plenum on Dec. 11 will give more exact figures," said Ilse Grosser of the Vienna Institute for Comparative International Economic Studies. Bulgaria has undergone a whirlwind of political change since the ousting of former leader Todor Zhivkov last month after 35 years in power, and new leader Petar Mladenov has pledged to introduce long-awaited Soviet-style reforms. BTA said Zarev criticised Zhivkov's economic policies which had brought the country's economy to crisis point and outlined a number of rescue measures. "This will be achieved by the introduction of various forms of ownership, development of the private economy and cooperative activity, by establishing a modern taxation system and planning from below," he said.

E. Germany drafts joint ventures law

EAST BERLIN (R) — The East German cabinet has drawn up a draft law on joint ventures with foreign companies and sent it to parliament, a government spokesman has said. Wolfgang Meyer told a news conference that the bill, which would include regulations for protecting foreign investments in East Germany, now had to be considered by a parliamentary committee. He said the government, which has promised a radical reform of the country's Stalinist style of economic management, wanted it to be passed quickly. But he could not say what level of foreign ownership would be allowed or give any other details.

S. Korea expands investments in China

SEOUL (AP) — Eight more South Korean companies have received permission to invest in China, bringing to 19 the number of firms authorised to do business in the communist nation. The International Private Economic Council of Korea (IPECK), a semi-government body which oversees investments in communist countries, said eight more firms had received permission from the Bank of Korea to pursue Chinese investment. South Korea and China have no diplomatic relations. IPECK said it had approved 12 of 24 applications filed since last April. Ten pending and two were returned for more information, it said. Most investments are for less than \$1 million and are made by small and medium-sized firms, IPECK said. Investments approved have included joint ventures for building glassware and electronics factories and one for going into the production of hamburgers. Trade between South Korea and China was valued at \$3.1 billion last year, about 84 per cent of Seoul's overall trade with the communist world.

Palestinians to increase farm exports to Europe

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — West Bank Palestinians, who suffered heavy losses in their first bid to sell food to the European Community (EC) last year, said Thursday they planned to send some 1,500 tonnes of vegetables this season.

The EC last year pressured Israel into allowing Palestinian farmers in the occupied territories to ship produce to Europe independently of Israeli marketing boards after the Community granted them preferential status. Gaza exporters have contracts to export 26,000 tonnes of citrus fruit to EC countries this season, after selling just 1,200 tonnes last year.

"Last year we sent about 100 tonnes (of vegetables), but this year we will probably send 1,200 tonnes of green peppers," said Khaled Al Qutub, secretary of the West Bank Agricultural Union.

Palestinians said the exports would amount to about 10 per cent of total West Bank production.

The first shipment, 50 tonnes

of asparagus, sailed for Marseille, France, last Sunday, and 100 tonnes more are to follow next week, Qutub said. Exporters will fly 20 tonnes to the Netherlands next week.

Qutub, head of the Jericho Marketing Cooperative which handles the exports, said exporters were being careful to avoid last year's mishaps.

"We have insured our exports with a British firm, and we have signed contracts with the shipping company to ensure there is no tampering with the shipments," he said.

Palestinian farmers said produce was intentionally damaged last year when the temperature of containers was altered while the produce was on a ship.

To help the exporters, the European Community has sent experts to advise on grading and packing and will supervise marketing in Europe.

Farmers said they hoped to get up to \$2,000 a tonne because supplies from European producing nations, such as Spain, had been cut by cold weather.

El Al, Aeroflot issue conflicting statements

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli airline El Al said Thursday it had agreed to set up direct air links with the Soviet Union but Moscow denied an accord had been signed.

Israel, which has not had diplomatic ties with Moscow for 22 years, hopes direct flights will make it more difficult for Jews who leave the Soviet Union on Israeli visas to announce during stopovers in Europe that they will instead seek a more prosperous life elsewhere.

El Al spokesman Nachman Klieman said the company and the Soviet airline Aeroflot signed an agreement in Moscow Wednesday that each would begin flying weekly between Tel Aviv and Moscow soon after the start of the year.

But in Moscow, an official at the ministry of civil aviation which is in overall charge of Aeroflot — denied an agreement had been signed.

"These are only rumours. It's not the first time they've said this. In reality no agreement between El Al and Aeroflot has been signed," a ministry official told Reuters. He declined to comment further.

Klieman had no explanation for the Soviet denial.

"El Al management and representatives of Aeroflot have signed an understanding and commercial agreement. An exact date for the inauguration of flights has not yet been deter-

mined," he told Reuters. Moscow severed diplomatic ties with Israel over the 1967 Middle East war but renewed low-level links in 1987 as part of a steady warming in relations under leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Klieman said: "We are looking to a combination of Russian immigrants, Russian tourists as well as Israeli tourists who have shown interest in visiting Russia".

El Al this year began flying to Poland, Hungary and Yugoslavia and will begin charter flights to Bulgaria in April under agreements reflecting a gradual rapprochement with East Europe.

Neither El Al nor Aeroflot has ever flown commercially to the other country although Israeli planes have flown medical teams to aid Soviet earthquake victims and a hijacked Aeroflot plane landed in Tel Aviv a year ago.

In Geneva Wednesday, the International Organisation for Migration said the number of Jews leaving the Soviet Union had reached a record level in November.

It said 9,495 Jews arrived in Vienna, their main transit point, raising the total this year to 55,465 compared with 20,062 in the whole of last year.

Israel complains that fewer than 15 per cent choose to settle in Israel but hopes that new quotas imposed by the United States and direct air links will bring a surge of immigrants.

U.S. cancels Nigerian debt

LAGOS (AP) — The United States has signed an agreement cancelling \$82 million in debt owed by Nigeria. U.S. Ambassador Lamon Walker also signed an agreement rescheduling until 1995 payments on an additional \$274 million. Walker, in signing the agreement, said his government agreed to the debt writeoff and rescheduling because the West African nation was implementing badly needed economic reforms. Walker said the

U.S. decision "will begin a new era of the United States working more closely together with Nigeria to help achieve its economic reform objectives." Several other Western nations already have written off the debt of Africa's most populous nation or agreed to a rescheduling. Lower oil prices and mismanagement of the OPEC-member nation's economy forced it to devalue its currency and impose strict austerity measures in 1985.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, December 7, 1989			
Central Bank official rates			
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	642.0	649.0	
Pound Sterling	1012.1	1022.2	
Deutschemark	364.2	367.8	
Swiss franc	404.7	408.7	
French franc	106.6	107.7	
Japanese yen (for 100)	45.8	45.3	
Dutch guilder	323.0	326.2	
Swedish crown	101.5	102.5	
Italian lire (for 100)	49.4	49.9	
Belgian franc (for 10)	172.2	173.9	

Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	Dec. 2-6	Nov. 25-29
Daily average	JD 1,659,618	JD 2,178,133
Total volume	JD 8,398,091	JD 8,712,531
Total shares	5,071,695	3,785,083
No. of contracts	4,727	4,440
Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 5,305,105 (63.9%)	JD 6,187,674 (71.0%)
Financial	JD 1,644,510 (19.8%)	JD 1,445,327 (16.6%)
Service	(15.5%)	(11.8%)
Insurance	(0.8%)	(0.6%)
Share price index	136.5	135.3
No. of companies	59	62
Price movement (rise)	33	22
(decline)	19	17
(stable)	7	13

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Wednesday.

One Sterling	1.5770/80	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1625/35	Canadian dollar
	1.7735/42	Deutschemark
	2.0025/32	Dutch guilders
	1.5940/50	Swiss francs
	37.24/28	Belgian francs
	6.0575/0625	French francs
	1307/1308	Italian lire
	144.20/30	Japanese yen
	6.3525/75	Swedish crowns
	6.7875/7925	Norwegian crowns
	6.8800/50	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	409.15/409.65	U.S. dollars

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — The market ended the week on an easier note in featureless trading as index futures moved sharply lower. The All Ordinaries index fell 9.7 to 1,626.1.

TOKYO — A technical correction and some early index-linked selling dragged share prices down after an almost uninterrupted four-week rally. The Nikkei index fell 134.05 to 37,734.06.

HONG KONG — Share prices ended easier in quiet trade with brokers blaming poorer performances in New York and Tokyo. The Hang Seng index shed 15.89 to finish at 2,754.11.

SINGAPORE — Selected buying alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times index shed 0.58 to 1,444.96.

BOMBAY — New Industry Minister Ajit Singh promised liberal economic policies, sending the Bombay index up 23.99 points to 756.08.

FRANKFURT — Profit-taking checked the boom which has resulted from political change in East Germany. The DAX index ended at 1,650.79, a loss of 13.29. "Correction had to come at some point," a dealer said. "The market has risen incredibly in the past few weeks."

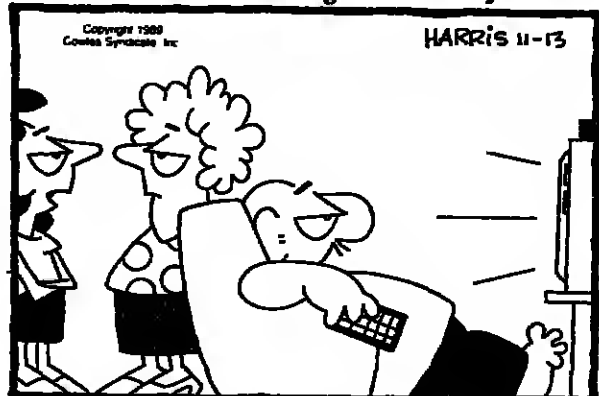
ZURICH — Wall Street's weak Thursday close and high Swiss interest rates discouraged investors. The all-share index lost 3.8 points to 1,143.6 in slow trade.

PARIS — American employment data raised hopes of easier U.S. credit. The CAC-40 index gained 13.66 points to 1,979.29.

LONDON — Shortcovering ahead of the two week account gave selected shares exaggerated gains. At 1626 GMT the FTSE index was up 16.8 points to 2,363.5.

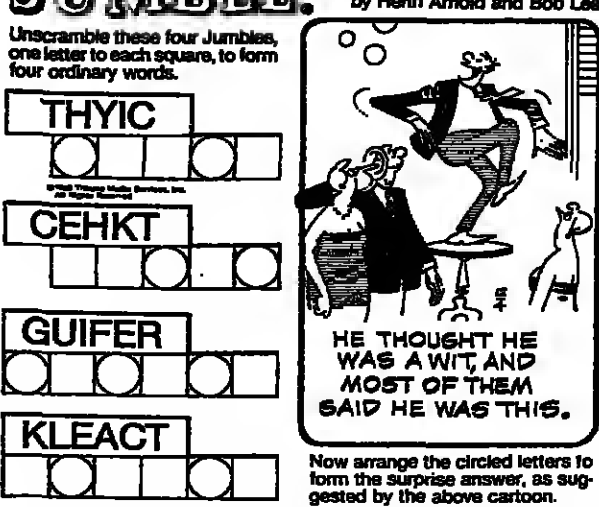
NEW YORK — November jobs data showed signs of economic weakness, boosting hopes for lower interest rates. At 1624 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 17.23 to 2,735.5.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Living... that's one of the little things he does to annoy me."

JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

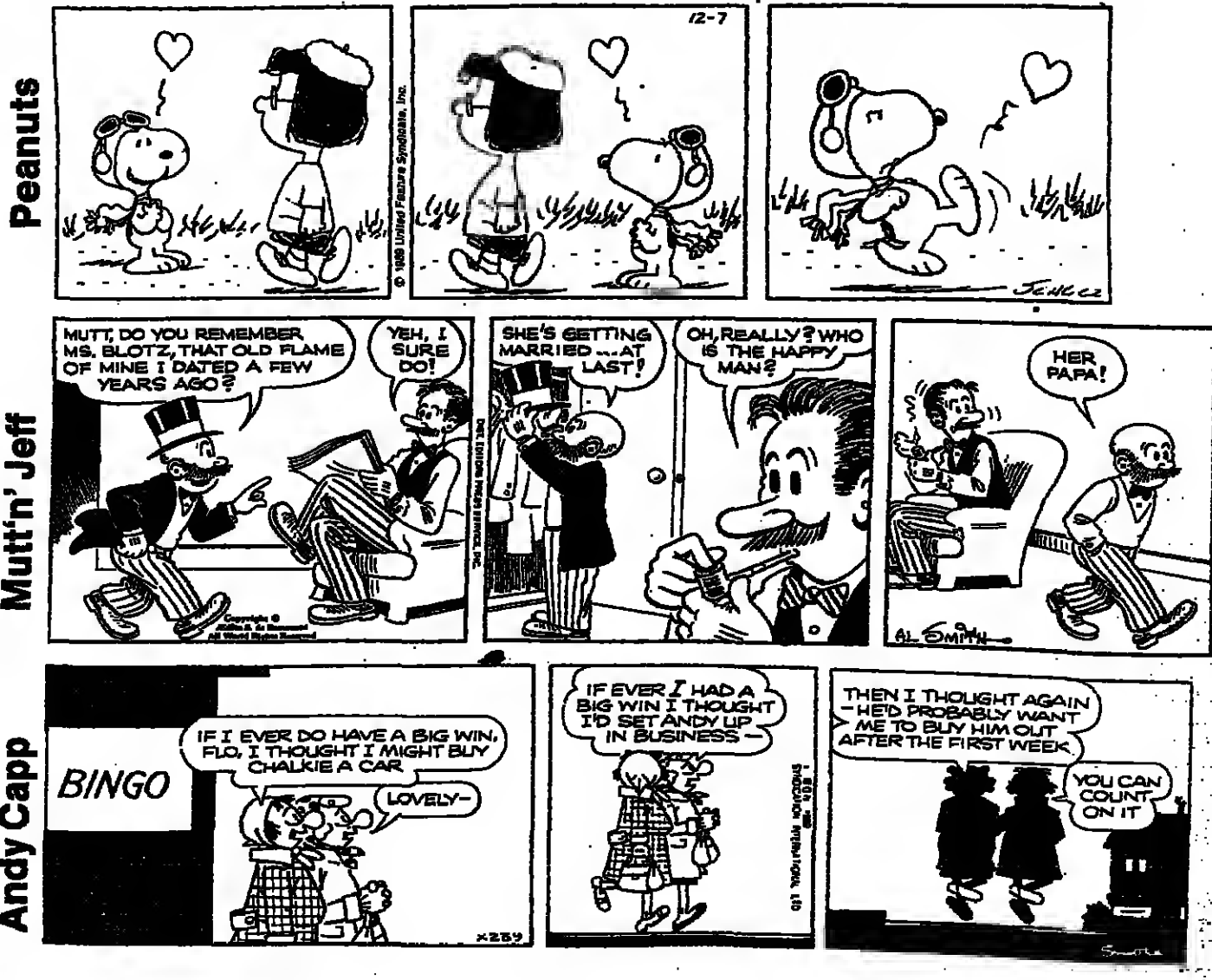


Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: GRAVE POKED BUTTER SOCIAL

Answer: What the canine member of the Boy Scouts was called — A "BEAGLE" SCOUT



Milan beats Barcelona 1-0, wins European Super Cup

jured, took much of the first half to find their rhythm and a way to beat Barcelona's effective offside trap. The breakthrough came from a free kick. Euzkadi beating Spanish

international goalkeeper Andoni Zubizarreta with Inw, left-front shot after winger Robertn Donadoni had tapped the ball to him.

Barcelona were Milan's second successive Spanish conquest this season — the Italians beat Real Madrid in the European Cup —

Zuhizarreta parried a powerful volley from European footballer of the year Marco van Basten, fellow-Dutchman Frank Rijkaard

just wide and Paolo Maldini headed over the bar as Milan threatened time and again.

Cinema
PLAZA
 Tel: 674111
 Jack Nicholson
 &
 Kim Basinger
BATMAN
 Performances 3.30, 6.30, 8.30, 10.30

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Performances 3,30, 6,00, 8,30, 10,30

Tel: 674111



'ETA helped Bogota bombing'

BOGOTA (R) — Colombia's secret police chief, target of a huge bomb attack that killed up to 52 people, said Thursday a former member of Spain's Basque separatist movement ETA helped drug traffickers organize the attack.

The bomb blast Wednesday, which wounded 650 people, set off calls for a united front against Colombia's "narcoterrorists" with one newspaper warning that the capital was turning into another Beirut.

The explosion, heard in most of Bogota, damaged buildings over a 26-block area and marked a dramatic escalation in the cocaine cartels' war against the government.

President Virgilio Barco, who was in Japan on a visit, blamed the attack on the "narcoterrorists" and vowed not to back down from his all-out war to wipe out the cocaine trade.

"They will not defeat us we will continue the fight their war is against all of Colombia and democracy," he said in a television speech to the nation from Japan.

General Miguel Maza Marquez, head of the Department of Administrative Security (DAS), told radio stations and the Colprensa news agency that a young Spaniard helped train the people who assembled and triggered the half-tonne bomb.

Maza Marquez told Colprensa that Medellín drug leaders Pablo Escobar and Jose Gonzalo Rodriguez Gacha, known as "The Mexican," were behind the wave of counter-attacks against the government offensive.

While he did not specifically blame them for the truck bomb or for a bomb which blew up a



Bogota's Department of Administrative Security after Wednesday's truckbomb explosion

Colombian airliner Nov. 27, killing all 107 people aboard, the two drug kingpins are the most wanted men in Colombia.

Maza Marquez, who survived the attack because he was in his ninth-floor armored-plated office, said the Spanish suspect knew how to use a wide range of explosives and arms.

The general told a radio station the Spaniard "was an ex-ETA terrorist, the instructor of the terrorist bands which are carrying out the wave of violence in Col-

ombia."

Maza Marquez oversaw probes this year which uncovered the presence of foreign mercenaries, mostly British and Israeli, who also have helped train cartel-backed hit squads.

ETA, which stands for Basque homeland and freedom in the Basque language, has been waging a guerrilla campaign for more than 20 years in Spain for the complete independence of the country's three northern provinces where most Basques live.

Singh moves swiftly to seek Punjab peace

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — India's new Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh said Friday he would call an all-party meeting within a week to thrash out a peace plan for the strife-torn northern state of Punjab, Indian news agencies reported.

Singh said he had also set up a cabinet committee on separatist insurgencies in both Punjab and Kashmir states.

Since taking office last week, Singh has moved quickly in the search for an end to the long and bloody Sikh separatist campaign in Punjab.

He made a dramatic visit Thursday to the Sikh holy city of Amritsar, prayed at the Golden Temple, Sikhdom's most sacred shrine, and expressed regret for years of bloodshed.

There has been no comment from Sikh militants, who want to establish an independent homeland they call Khalistan (land of the pure), on whether Singh's gesture was enough to bring them to the negotiating table.

More than 1,900 people have been killed in the campaign this year. Last year 2,500 died.

The steady tightening grip on daily life of separatists in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, has also worried the new government along with a surge of violence that preceded the November election campaign.

Singh appointed Mufti Mohammad Sayeed to the powerful Home (Interior) Ministry, the first time a Muslim has held a job that must deal with separatist and sectarian violence.

Sayeed, a Kashmiri, has probably the toughest job in Singh's minority government, which controls only 144 seats in the 545-member parliament.

It depends on the support of two left parties and the right-wing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party, which seeks an end to constitutional concessions to Muslims.

Singh's visit to the Golden Temple was the first by a prime minister in more than five years.

"Too much bloodshed has taken place," he told a crowd of about 20,000 Sikhs inside the 14th century shrine. "The time has come to win the hearts of the people."

Also Thursday, a judge in New Delhi ordered the withdrawal of a case against four Sikhs accused of participating in the Oct. 31, 1984, assassination of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi.

In another development, the top administrator of Punjab state, who was appointed by the previous government, resigned and was replaced.

Mrs. Gandhi was shot and killed by two of her Sikh bodyguards angered by an army attack she ordered on the Golden Temple to flush out militants entrenched inside. She had visited the temple in June 1984, a week after the attack.

One of her assassins was shot and killed by other security men. The other was convicted along with an accomplice and both were hanged last January.

Charges were later filed against four other Sikhs, who were accused of conspiracy. Last week, the government said it would withdraw the charges in a conciliatory move towards the Sikh community.

"One does wonder why the move was not made earlier," said Judge Jaspal Singh, himself a Sikh, while ordering the charges dropped. "But then, at a time when political sagacity has been at a heavy discount and one notices the dulling of sensitivities all around, this comes as a welcome relief."

All Sikhs and many Hindus use the name Singh, which means lion. The prime minister is a Hindu.

Two of the Sikhs accused in the assassination conspiracy were elected to parliament in last month's general elections, in which V.P. Singh and his National Front coalition prevented Rajiv Gandhi, Mrs. Gandhi's son and successor, from returning to power.

Singh's visit to the Golden Temple Thursday was noticeable for the almost-total lack of bodyguards, who surrounded Gandhi during his public appearances. Singh travelled in an open jeep from Amritsar's Raja Sansi airport to the temple after refusing to sit in a bullet-proof sedan.

"Your love to me is my security," the prime minister told the gathering at the gold-domed temple.



Pro-government soldiers raise their hands in jubilation in Manila

Aquino launches political offensive after failed coup

MANILA (Agencies) — Philippine President Corason Aquino went on the political offensive Friday, implicitly linking her vice-president and two other opposition leaders to the failed army coup and saying she would not resign.

As many as 100,000 cheering supporters waved placards saying "no to coup," "we are for peace" and "We support our president" rallied in Manila to back Aquino after the six-day failed putsch which almost toppled her from power.

Adopting a new, more combative stance, Aquino in a speech to the chanting crowd urged her estranged Vice-President Salvador Laurel to quit, saying the budget for his office could be used better elsewhere.

She challenged him to explain the coincidence that he was always out of the capital when there was a coup attempt. Laurel was away in London and Hong Kong during the rebellion.

"He keeps saying: 'Cory resign. Cory resign.' What does he think I am, a fool, that I will resign so he will become president?" Aquino demanded.

"Laurel has to explain some things," she declared. "I will never give this post to him."

Meanwhile the commander of some 400 army rebels still holding out at a military air base in the central Philippines said he was ready to die if government forces attacked.

Air Force Brigadier-General Jose Comendador repeated in a telephone interview from his hideout on Mactan Island his earlier threat to blow up 32 commercial and military planes at the base and an adjacent international airport if attacked.

"I will blow them up. I mean it," he said.

Surrender is out of the question. We have opted to die."

The mutineers took over the base on Dec. 1 as part of the coup launched by other rebel soldiers in Manila. The mutiny ended in the capital Thursday when hundreds of rebels marched defiantly back to their barracks.

Naming names for the first time, Aquino also implicitly tied former Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and wealthy indus-

trialist Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco — her own first cousin — to the sixth attempt to overthrow her.

She said the senate would investigate Enrile's possible role in the putsch, and said it was suspicious that Cojuangco returned from political exile in the United States just a week before the latest coup was launched.

Explaining her apparent change of style, Aquino told the crowd: "Perhaps this revolt occurred to tell me, 'Cory you must get angry. You must fight those who fight you.'"

But she made no mention of political changes or why she imposed a state of emergency Wednesday, just before the coup collapsed.

At the ceremony commemorating the "people's power" revolt of 1986 which swept Aquino to office, the archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin, called the latest coup attempt a massive tragedy which had set back the economy and damaged the nation.

The rebel builders have accused Aquino of failing to stamp out corruption, reorganise the armed forces and deliver on promises of social justice.

Lithuania and Estonia challenge party supremacy

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuania and Estonia, following their rebellious Eastern European neighbours, have demonstrated to Moscow that they will not longer enshrine Communist Party power in their local laws.

Lithuania's parliament Thursday voted overwhelmingly to abolish Article 6 of the republic's constitution which guarantees party domination over political life.

The Lithuanian local parliament, or Supreme Soviet, also legislated other political parties.

And Estonia's central committee, the policy-making body of the republic's Communist Party, gave the go-ahead for a similar move by its parliament later this month.

Dumping the clause that legislated the party's leading role has effectively opened the door to the first multi-party elections in the Soviet Union since 1917, when several parties vied for seats in a

short-lived constituent assembly. The developments mark a downturn for the fortunes of the Soviet party at home after its Communist allies in much of Eastern Europe have been forced to stand down.

It also sets the stage for confrontation at next week's Congress of People's Deputies, the Soviet Union's top legislative body, where pressure is mounting to discuss the same clause at the national level.

At the same time, it puts Lithuania and its Baltic neighbours on a collision course with the Kremlin, which has repeatedly warned the restive republics that they threaten its perestroika reform programme.

Eduardas Potashnikas, a Lithuanian activist who has been monitoring the Supreme Soviet's legislative sessions, said Thursday's vote was 243-1, with 39 abstentions.

The Lithuanian action only

affects that republic, and is likely to face a stiff challenge from Moscow. A similar proposal in Armenia failed Wednesday when the legislature failed to draw a quorum.

"During the session of the Supreme Soviet of Lithuania, the 6th article of the constitution of the USSR was abolished and changed into the new formula which declares a multi-party system," the information department of the Lithuanian political movement Sajudis said in a text message.

Potashnikas said the Supreme Soviet directed that a new law governing the actions of political parties in the republic be prepared in the next 45 days.

Article 6, which became part of the basic law of the Soviet Union with the Brezhnev constitution of 1977, makes the Communist Party the "leading and guiding force of Soviet society." Similar language was included in the republics' constitutions.

Armenians mark quake anniversary with grief

LENINAKAN (Agencies) — Bells tolled and mournful chants filled the streets Thursday as Armenia marked the one-year anniversary of the earthquake that left at least 25,000 of its people dead.

In this mountain city hit worst by the quake, officials stopped the big town clock forever at 11:41, the minute disaster struck. "If only it could all have been a dream, and we could wake up and have everyone here again," Armenian poet Maro Marzarian told a crowd of several hundred gathered to dedicate a memorial to Leninakan's thousands of dead.

In a cemetery just outside of town, hundreds of families gathered at gravesites, the women openly sobbing, the men stony-eyed and silent. Among the many graves of the earthquake victims were plots for the remains of unidentified corpses, with markers reading only "238

woman" or "453 child". "Your soul hurts so much you just can't express it," said Lilit Stepanian, 25, whose brother, Zililik, and his family were crushed to death in their Leninakan apartment.

"You remember that on this day, at this time, they were already gone," she said. "At this time one year ago I was standing by our house, only it wasn't a house any more."

She said Zililik's three-year old daughter could be heard crying from the ruins of the house but rescuers could not get to her in time. Stepanian's mother Rima said, Zililik's wife had been due to give birth to a second child three weeks later.

Spitak, a town of 50,000 people surrounded by rolling hills in northwestern Armenia, was almost totally destroyed by the quake. Its heaps of rubble, twisted metal and half-collapsed buildings remain as a monument.

Even the acrid smell of smoke that hung over Spitak after the disaster still haunted the cemetery around a hastily-constructed galvanized steel church on a snow-flecked hill overlooking the remains of the town.

Relatives of the dead clung to the tombstones, stroking the faces of the victims etched into the black marble. Hundreds of voices wailed the same creaky "Bola, bola, bola" (enough, enough, enough).

Families brought food and drink to the gravesides, staged an all-day vigil with their dead relatives despite the biting wind. Men gulped back glasses of vodka and Armenian cognac, saving the last drops to pour over the raked earth of the graves.

The Soviet press marked the anniversary with a vehement attack on the local authorities for their failure to take effective action to repair the damage and build new housing.

COLUMN

Actor Redford wins award

NEW YORK (R) — Actor Robert Redford won the 1989 Audubon Medal Thursday in recognition of his longtime work to protect the environment, the National Audubon Society announced. Audubon President Peter Berde, in remarks at the society's annual dinner, said Redford had earned the award for "bringing the environment, government and business communities together in a common search for solutions to environmental problems." Redford, the founder of the Institute for Resource Management, called on environmental activists to work for the election of politicians who "advance the environmental agenda" and for the defeat of those who stand in its way. Among those who previously received the medal from the 600,000-member National Audubon Society were Rachel Carson, Laurence Rockefeller and Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

Sex case psychiatrist dead

SOUTHAMPTON, New York (AP) — A doctor accused of soliciting college students to have sex with his wife in a phony research project was found dead Thursday in an apparent suicide, police said. Police were called to the home of Rodney Thorp Wood, 60, in the early hours of Thursday. Police said Wood was found dead in an apparent suicide but refused to elaborate. Wood and his wife, Nancy Steffen Wood, 44, were arrested in September in Eugene, Oregon, after allegedly conducting a phony research project they claimed was for Britain's prestigious Oxford University that included a sex tour of west coast college campuses. Each pleaded guilty to prostitution Oct. 23 and was fined \$2,500. The couple allegedly visited the University of Oregon campus, telling male students they were "evaluating the sexual potential of the mature female" and would pay participants \$10 for taking part, police said. Mrs. Wood distributed "letters of introduction" to young men on campus, police said. Two students tipped off the police, and an officer posing as a student contacted the couple, who were charged Sept. 16.

Forgotten statue sold for record

LONDON (R) — A Dutch bronze statue which stood forgotten in an English country garden for nearly 40 years was sold at auction Thursday for record £8.8 million (\$10.7 million). The dancing faun by 17th century sculptor Adrien de Vries was brought for less than £100 (\$160) in the 1950s. It had been expected to fetch up to £1.5 million (\$2.4 million) by auctioneers Sotheby's. "It is so exciting to see that still unknown and great works can re-appear having been missing for many years," said a Sotheby's spokeswoman. She said the price was a record for an early bronze sculpture. The 75-cm high statue of a young man has been dated at between 1610 and 1615, when the sculptor was working in Prague. The bronze was the property of an elderly English couple, who put it in a sale of garden statues before it was identified by experts as a masterpiece. It was bought by a London dealer. It was inspired by an ancient marble, now in Florence's Uffizi gallery, which was excavated in the 16th century and thought to have been restored by Michelangelo.

Scorsese, festival director acquitted

ROME (AP) — An appeals court Thursday upheld the acquittal of U.S. director Martin Scorsese and the organizer of the Venice Biennale Festival on contempt of religion charges for the screening of the film "The Last Temptation of Christ." A criminal investigation was opened in 1988 after several people denounced the film to authorities prior to its showing at the Venice Film Festival, part of the biennale. Judges initially decided to take no action against Scorsese or biennale director Paolo Portoghesi. But an appeals court ruled the case should be considered by a Venice criminal court, which found Scorsese and Portoghesi innocent. Thursday's ruling upholding the acquittal marked the final stage for the case. The supreme court was declined to accept it. Protesters had gone to court contending the film violated Italian laws on obscenity and blasphemy. They said the movie was sacrilegious, particularly a scene in which Jesus hallucinates on the cross about abandoning his role as redeemer, making love to Mary Magdalene and raising a family with her.

'Revenge-seeker' guns down 14 women in campus

MONTREAL (Agencies) — The gunman who ranged through the University of Montreal's engineering school and killed 14 women carried a suicide letter complaining that women had spoiled his life, police say.

The young killer — identified by police Thursday night as Marc Lepine, 25 — also wounded nine women and four men before killing himself Wednesday in the worst mass murder in Canadian history.

As he roamed through the modern, six-storey engineering building firing a rifle, Lepine yelled, "I want the women, and 'You're all a bunch of feminists — I hate feminists,'" witnesses told police.

One of the wounded remained in critical but stable condition Thursday. The rest were out of danger.

A Montreal gun shop salesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Lepine bought the hunting rifle used in the slaying for \$510. The man had a provincial gun permit under the name of Marc Lepine.

Earlier, a broadcast report gave the killer's name as Marc Lapin.

The employee said Lepine used to come in to the gun store to browse, and bought a handgun there about two years ago.

"He didn't appear to be any crazier than anyone else — actually, he was a bit of a joker," he said.

Police said Lepine was born in Montreal to a Quebec mother and an Algerian father and was known as Gamil Gharbi until age seven. His parents separated and he took his mother's last name, Lepine, and the first name Marc.

In his letter, Lepine said he was committing a "political act" in killing the women because "feminists had always ruined my life," police reported.

Senior police investigator Jacques Duchesneau told a news conference Lepine was a 223-centimetre-tall, average-weight, brown-haired man.

He also carried a hunting knife and sheath, two boxes of bullets and a 30-bullet clip.

The gun shop employee said the type of firearm bought by Lepine was a big seller, with

hundreds sold in his store every year.

Duchesneau said "it was quite clear" that a three-page handwritten letter signed "Marc" and found on Lepine's body was a suicide note.

He said it contained the names of 15 women that were believed taken from a newspaper, but declined to elaborate except to say not all were public figures.

Duchesneau told reporters the letter said Lepine was seeking revenge on women.

"I think he blamed women in general, saying that if his life was ruined it was mainly because of women," Duchesneau said.

Copies of the letter were sent to a psychiatrist and a graphologist for analysis.

The school was crowded on the last day of classes before examinations when the killer arrived at about 4:30 p.m. (2130 GMT) Wednesday.

Police said he first shot a woman in a second-floor corridor, then entered a room on that floor where a class with about 50 male and 10 female students was in session.

Handwritten signature: J. J. J. J. J.